

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**Syantani Ghosh says onscreen characters affect an actor on an individual level**

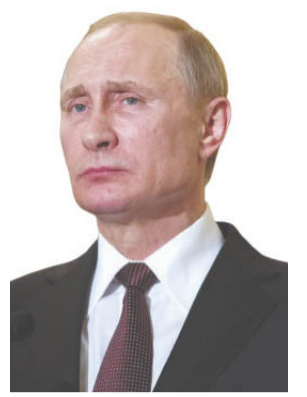


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**BJP will sweep assembly polls in Maharashtra, Jharkhand: Nadda**

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e-paper: [www.topnewsjk.in](http://www.topnewsjk.in)

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-281

Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

**Omar thanks NC MLAs for electing him leader of legislature party**



SRINAGAR, Oct 11 (Agencies): Omar Abdullah thanked the National Conference (NC) legislators on Thursday for electing him their leader so that he can stake claim to form the government in Jammu and Kashmir. "You are aware of the decision that was taken. A meeting of the NC legislature party took place, the legislature party has decided its leader and I am thankful from the bottom of my heart to the NC legislators that they have reposed their faith in me and given me a chance to stake claim for government formation," Abdullah told reporters after he was elected the leader of the legislature party here.

He said four of the seven Independent MLAs have extended support to the NC, taking the party's strength to 46.

**Light snowfall over higher reaches of J&K on Oct 16, 17: MeT**

SRINAGAR, Oct 11 (Agencies): The Meteorological Centre Srinagar Friday said the few higher reaches of J&K will likely to receive light snowfall during October 16-17.

It also predicted dry weather till October 15. From October 11-15 the weather conditions will likely to remain dry, the MeT official said.

He said from October 16-17 there will be generally cloudy with light rain (light snow at few higher reaches) with thunder at scattered places of Kashmir and isolated places of Jammu division.

From October 18-19 there is a possibility of partly to generally cloudy weather with possibility of spell of very light rain at isolated places of Kashmir division.

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## Centre, J&K Govt will implement what will be best according to Constitution: Naqvi On Statehood

NEW DELHI, Oct 11 (Agencies): As the National Conference (NC) Vice President, Omar Abdullah, promised to pass a resolution demanding the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) statehood, BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Friday said the Central and state government together will discuss matters, take suggestions and implement whatever they think will be best according to the Constitution.

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said, "The election held in J&K was for the victory of democracy. People exercised their right to vote with great passion and enthusiasm. This is a symbol of the fact that the people of J&K believe in democracy with values and decorum."

Naqvi asserted that the new government of J&K has the constitu-



tional responsibility to work for the welfare of the people.

"The new government of J&K has a constitutional responsibility to work hard for the security, respect, and prosperity of the Union Territory. Apart from this, whatever proposals the Centre and the state government will discuss together

will be implemented according to the Constitution," he added.

Naqvi hit out at the Congress for raising questions on the Electronic Voting Machines' (EVM) functioning after a poor show in Haryana Assembly polls and said, "I think the Congress is not seeing its own shortcomings. The Congress is cleaning the mirror despite having dust on its face. If there is dust on their face, they should not wash the mirror."

"The Congress is not trying to understand the main problem and is completely ignoring it. I think they didn't perform well in Haryana because of their shortcomings. However, they are now raising questions about the EVMs after facing defeat. First, they should try to solve the problems they are

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## LG Manoj Sinha Visits Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine



JAMMU, Oct 11 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday paid obeisance at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district.

During his visit, he offered prayers for peace, prosperity, happi-

ness, and the well-being of all.

"Paid obeisance at revered Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine on the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja and prayed for J&K's prosperity and the well-being of all," Office of LG J&K post on X.

## 20 killed in attack on miners in Pakistan

KARACHI, Oct 11 (Agencies): At least 20 miners were killed and eight others were injured early Friday when unidentified armed men attacked their coal mines in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province.

The incident occurred in the Dukki area of the province, Dunya News reported.

The attack is the latest in a string of violence in Pakistan. It comes less ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's summit to be held in the national capital.

According to District Chairman Dukki Haji Khair Ullah Nasir, the attackers used hand grenades and rocket launchers in the attack. He said that there are ten coal mines located in the area.

Nasir said that the attackers also set ablaze mining machinery before fleeing the scene.

At least 20 miners were killed and eight

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## Bakshi Stadium witnesses overwhelming turnout for 2nd Legends League match



SRINAGAR, Oct 11 (Agencies): Bakshi Stadium witnessed an overwhelming turnout as second day of the much-anticipated Legends

League Cricket unfolded in the heart of Srinagar, with fans eager to see Chris Gayle in action.

Cricket enthusiasts from all corners of the

region flocked to the venue to watch second match of the Legends League tournament.

The atmosphere was electric, with fans eagerly waiting to watch cricketing legend Chris Gayle. His anticipated participation in today's match has created a buzz, with supporters expressing their excitement for a chance to witness the West Indian powerhouse in action.

"Chris Gayle has been

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## J&K Admin Introduces New Recruitment Rules for Police Gazetted Service

JAMMU, Oct 11 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday introduced new recruitment guidelines for the Jammu and Kashmir Police (Gazetted) Service.

The rules, brought into effect through a government notification (SO 500), mark a significant



shift in the recruitment process for police offi-

cers. According to the notification, recruitment will be conducted through direct appointments and promotions.

The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) will handle direct recruitment, while promotions

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## State Election Commission begins process of Panchayat polls in J-K

SRINAGAR, Oct 11 (Agencies): The State Election Commission (SEC) has initiated process of holding Panchayat elections in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, with directions passed to all Deputy Commissioners to provide the soft copies of Final Panchayat Electoral Roll 2024.

In a letter to Deputy Commissioners of all districts of Jammu & Kashmir, the State Election Commission (SEC) has directed them to

provide soft copy of Final Panchayat Electoral Roll.

"Kindly refer to the subject cited above. In this context, I am directed to request you to kindly provide the soft copies of Final Panchayat Electoral Roll 2024 (without photo) for uploading on the website of State Election Commission," an official letter signed by Susheel Kumar, Secretary State Election Commission reads.

The SEC has directed

all Deputy Commissioners of J&K that soft copies of Final Panchayat Electoral Roll 2024 can be mailed to the official email [sec-jammukashmir@jk.gov.in](mailto:sec-jammukashmir@jk.gov.in).

Notably the elections for J&K Legislative Assembly were held recently in three phases on Sept 18, Sept 25 and Oct 01, while as counting of votes took place on Oct 08. The elections passed off peacefully with 64 percent voter

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## Ramban residents demand swift police action to trace missing mother of 4



BANIHAL, Oct 11 (Agencies): The residents of Ramban staged peaceful candle march at various locations of the district including main market Halla, Jatgalli, Shandri, Ghari

and Kumait villages of Ramban district, demanding justice for Salesha Devi and her four children.

The locals said Salesha Devi (38), wife of Jeevan Singh, resident

of Jatgalli Tehsil Rajgarh in district Ramban has been missing for over a month, but the Ramban police have yet to yield any concrete results.

The community, united in their quest for justice, urged the police authorities to take swift and stringent action against suspected culprits and book them under relevant sections of the law.

They sought prompt justice for the victim and her four innocent children at home.

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# Returning Officer Chenani Constituency exposed for massive fraud to help BJP

**Declare Chenani Assembly election null and void: Harsh Dev**

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Oct 11: Accusing the Returning Officer Chenani Assembly constituency of indulging in fraudulent practices, bias and prejudice in the just concluded Assembly elections and illegally favouring BJP, Harsh Dev Singh on Friday sought civil and criminal action against the delinquent officer with exemplary punishment to the latter which could act as deterrent for other corrupt and unscrupulous officers. Singh pointed out that Balwant Singh Mankotia, the BJP candidate from Chenani filed his nomination form along with affidavit on 11th September, 2024 in which several pages were missing besides provision of false information by him in the remaining pages. The affidavit starts from Page No 7 in which Page No 9 is missing and details concealed. The self printed affidavit was not in consonance with the actual affidavit prescribed for the purpose. Besides the details of rent and govt dues in respect of power, water, telephone, etc were not given which is mandatory. Likewise two columns on Page No 21 were kept vacant which alone in itself is a major defect under section 33 RPA and constitutes a substantial ground for rejection of Nomination form as clearly directed by the ECI.



The matter was reported to RO on 12th September which was the last date for filing nomination paper. The RO was categorically apprised about the lapses and he also knew that the nomination paper of the BJP candidate is incomplete, pages were missing and columns left blank but he chose to side with the defaulting candidate only under pressure of ruling party. The rule book issued by ECI says that the Nomination paper/ Affidavit of the candidate should be uploaded on website within 24 hours of filing the same by the candidate and in any case not later than 3 p.m on the last date fixed for filing the nomination. The fraudulent practice therefore is crystal clear and deserves due action by ECI, govt and police administration. These are not only the Election offences but criminal offences as well committed by the BJP candidate. He was addressing the press conference in Udhampur today. Singh further stated that the said RO called Mankotia on 13th September, 2024 and asked him to file another affidavit notwithstanding the fact that the process of filing the said nominations had already been closed on 12th September as per the order of

the Election Commission of India. The said Mankotia, as such, filled another backdated affidavit on 13th September after rectifying few of the defects. The backdated nomination form and affidavit bearing the date of 11th September but filed on 13th September was therefore uploaded on 13th September and thus candidate's nomination form got accepted. This not only amounts to a fraud of gargantuan proportion but also an electoral malpractice committed in collusion with officials, and as such the Assembly election of Chenani is liable to be rejected and stringent action initiated against the Returning Officer Gurdev Kumar. Pointing further towards other defects in the nomination form/ Affidavit of BJP candidate, the JKNPP India leader said that 2nd Affidavit filed by the said Mankotia on 13th September is also defective and that too could not have been accepted under any circumstances. Grounds of rejection of Elections as indicated by Panthers India leader include-Two contradictory affidavits have been filed by BJP candidate. One on 11th September in which several pages are missing and several columns left blank. In the second Affidavit filed after the last date altogether different information has been provided with regard to holding of govt. accommodation, payment of rent, power, water usage charges and telephone charges. No NDCs from govt depts have been attached which is a mandatory requirement. In the first affidavit two columns are vacant on Page No 21. In the second affidavit one column is vacant on Page No 26. 1st affidavit filed by Mr. Mankotia starts from Page No 7 and second affidavit starts with a page bearing No 8. On Page No 17 of 1st affidavit Mankotia states that he was not occupying any govt accommodation during 10 years prior to the date of election notification. In the 2nd affidavit uploaded on 13th September, he states that he was occupant

of govt accommodation during the aforesaid period in two places in Jammu as well as in Udhampur. The incongruity in both the affidavits has been clearly discernible but the RO shut his eyes only to favour the blue eyed candidate. And further no undertaking had been given by the BJP candidate to consider the 2nd affidavit which is a statutory requirement.

'No Dues Certificate' from different depts have not been enclosed which was a pre-requisite and a mandatory requirement. At one place, Mankotia shows the loan due as Rs.17,81,000 in his affidavit while on the other page of Affidavit he shows the loan as Rs.19,70,000.

In part B, para 8B(iii) the bifurcation of value of self acquired assets and inherited assets as required in sub clause (a) and sub clause (b) have not been mentioned. And the columns have been kept unfilled/vacant. There was a tampering with several EVMS only to provide illegitimate benefit to the ruling party/BJP candidate.

The footage of the CCTV cameras installed in the complex of strong room where the ballot units of 61-Chenani AC were kept is not being provided to us as repeatedly sought.

Singh said that in view of multiple defects in Affidavit, pages missing, columns kept vacant, complete information not provided and formats of Nomination/ Affidavit having been changed, EVMS tampered with, colluding officers not punished and the govt machinery having been misused in favour of BJP candidate, the Assembly Election of Chenani is void ab initio and is liable to be declared as null and void. Further, the commission of hundreds of irregular practices, violation of MCC by BJP and its candidate, distribution of huge cash, liquor, sarees, suits, bags to voters, use of money and muscle power, massive corrupt practices and abuse of govt machinery, the said elections has got vitiated and deserves to be struck down with immediate effect, said Singh.

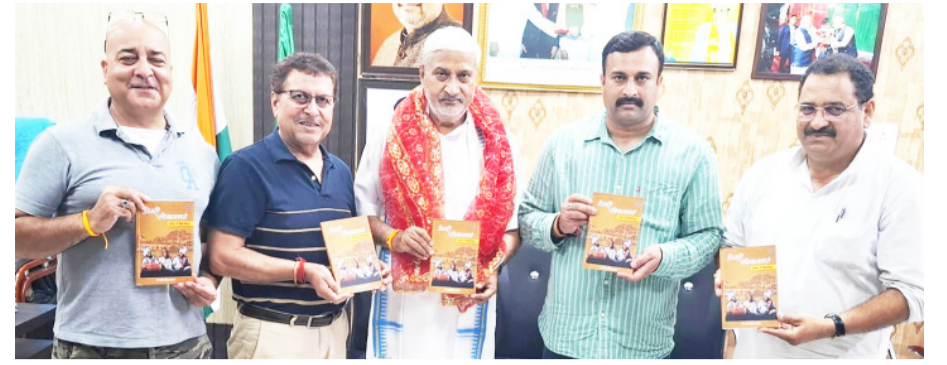
He disclosed that several complaints of corrupt and irregular practices besides frauds committed by BJP candidate and his workers were thrown into the dustbin with no action initiated in any matter despite proofs provided to the Returning Officer.

# Book "Dogri Lok Gatha: Sarup te Vishleshan" will help in understanding Dogra history: Sham Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 11: Nasib Singh Manhas, a retired officer from the 1988 batch of the Indian Broadcasting Program Service (IBPS), paid a courtesy visit to former Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Government and current MLA from Jammu North Assembly, Sham Lal Sharma, and presented him with his book titled "Dogri Lok Gatha: Sarup te Vishleshan."

On this occasion, Sham Lal Sharma said that the book "Dogri Lok Gatha: Sarup te Vishleshan" will help in understanding Dogra history. The creation of literature in local languages usually begins as part of an oral tradi-



tion. Manhas ji deserves congratulations for the successful publication of this book.

State Awardee Mahant Rohit Shastri, a Jyotishacharya, also spoke on the occasion, stating that Nasib Singh Manhas and his family have made invaluable contributions to the promotion and development of the Dogri

language in Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the younger generation to follow in the footsteps of Nasib Singh Manhas and contribute to the preservation of the cultural heritage of the state and the nation.

On this occasion, renowned artist Shekhar Sharma remarked that there are many types

of Indian folk epics. Broadly, they can be classified based on their theme and size. In terms of size, these works are found in both short and long forms. The larger epics sometimes have a structure similar to that of narrative poems.

Rakesh Singh and others were also present at the event.

# AAP announces support for Omar Abdullah's NC in J&K, submits letter to LG

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 11: Aam Admi Party (AAP) on Friday said that it will extend support to Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) after the NC-Congress alliance emerges victorious in the recently concluded assembly election in the Union Territory.

The formal letter of support has been submitted to the Lt Governor



by the party. Jammu and Kashmir has one MLA from AAP.

Party candidate Mehraj Malik has won the Doda assembly constituency

by 4538 votes against BJP's Gajay Singh Rana.

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.

On Thursday, The JKNC unanimously elected Omar Abdullah as the leader of its Legislative Party.

# J&K Congress MLAs meet to elect legislature party leader

SRINAGAR, Oct 11 (Agencies): The legislature party meeting of the newly elected Congress MLAs began here on Friday to elect their leader in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly.



The meeting of the six newly elected leaders of the Congress party began in the party headquarters at M A Road here, a Congress leader said.

He said the meeting will elect the leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP).

The newly elected Congress MLAs include party's state president Tariq Hameed Karra, general secretary Ghulam

Ahmad Mir, Nizamuddin Bhat, Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed, Irfan Hafeez Lone and Iftikar Ahmad.

While Ahmad was elected from Jammu region, the rest were elected from the Kashmir valley.

After the meeting, the Congress will hand over the letters of support to its alliance partner, the National Conference (NC).

# Around 150 militants waiting at launchpads across LoC: BSF officer

SRINAGAR, Oct 11 (Agencies): Around 150 militants are waiting at launchpads across the Line of Control (LoC) to infiltrate into the Kashmir valley as winter approaches, but security forces would foil any such bid, a senior BSF officer said on Friday.



"Attempts of infiltration continue to take place. Based on the intelligence inputs we receive from various agencies, we coordinate with the army to establish a domination plan along the border.

"We also keep in mind the number of terrorists at the launching pads, which helps us shape our strategy and domination plan to ensure we foil any plans," BSF Inspector General (Kashmir Frontier) Ashok Yadav told reporters here.

He said the security forces would ensure any infiltration attempt is thwarted.

Asked how many militants were waiting at terror launchpads now, he said, "The number of terrorists at the launching pads usually varies between 130 and 150, at times it may be slightly higher."

On the challenges after conducting peaceful assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Yadav said the security forces coordinated closely with the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the administration to ensure fair and peaceful polls.

threat inputs, but with our well-coordinated domination plan, we prevented any attack, and the elections were successful.

"Now, with winter approaching, preparations are in place. Before winter sets in, terrorists often attempt infiltration, and we are dominating the area accordingly," he said, adding there are inputs about possible infiltration attempts along the LoC.

Asked about the volatile West Asia situation having any impact in the Valley, the IG BSF said while the security forces do not have specific inputs on militants trying to take advantage of the crises "we keep these international developments in our analysis and factor them into our operational plans".

On a question about narcoterrorism, Yadav said narcotics comes in from across the LoC and is a good source for terror financing. "There are some vil-

lages along the LoC, some vulnerable patches like Tangdhar and Keran sectors, but we have deployed mobile bunkers and women troopers as well because there were inputs that they might use some women as couriers, to stop the inflow of narcotics. There has been a huge impact and we have been successful in bringing it down to a large extent," he added.

The BSF officer said the forces strive to ensure that soldiers are trained not only in traditional aspects of border management such as weapon handling, firing, field craft and tactics and endurance activities, but also in the latest technology.

"With the evolving nature of technology, we have integrated various types of surveillance equipment into border management. Given the growing issue of drones, we are incorporating training on how to effectively use new technology for better border

security. "Additionally, we are utilising the Government of India's platform, iGOT, which offers various types of training that we provide to our trainees," he said.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
JAL SHAKTI IRRIGATION DIVISION UDHAMPUR

Fresh E-NIT NO. 15 OF 2024-25  
Dated:- 09-10-2024

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Short Term E-Tender (in two cover system) Cover-I containing CDR/FDR prequalification documents and Cover-II containing price bid are invited from registered Contractors/firms for the works below:-

S. No.	Name of Work	App. Cost (In lacs)	E/Money	Class of Contr.	A.A/ T.S No.	Position of funds	Time of Completion	Cost of tender (In Rs)
1.	Construction of Salaan Khul RD 0-241 mtr	8.21	16420/-	CEE & DEE	Accorded	Partially available	60 days	500/-

- The bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 10-10-2024 at 10.00 P.M to 15-10-2024 upto 4.00 P.M
- The bids shall be uploaded/submitted in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 10-10-2024 at 10.00 P.M to 15-10-2024 upto 4.00 P.M
- The Complete bidding process will be online.
- The Technical bids & Financial bids uploaded on the website upto due date and same will be opened on 16-10-2024 (01.30 P.M) in the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Udhampur in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on account of holiday the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue, or any other day convenient to opening authority.
- Bidding documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Irrigation Division  
Udhampur.

No. IDU/- 4501-4540  
Dated:- 09-10-2024  
DIP/J-5333/24

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospital Division Udhampur  
(E-mail - xenmdudh@gmail.com)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) e-tenders are invited in two cover system, from reputed and registered firms for the job mentioned below:-

S.NO.	Description of work	N.I.T No	Estimated/ Approved Cost (in Lacs)	Earnest Money/ Performance Security	Cost of tender documents	Time of completion	Eligibility Criteria of Bidder	Tender Receiving Authority
01	General Repairs with replacement of defective parts of Truck No. JK14B-5273	E-NIT No. MHDU/TS/ 36 of 2024-25 Dt:- 09/10/2024 Due on:- 18/10/2024	0.58 (Lacs)	<b>Earnest Money</b> 2% of estimated amount, amounting to Rs. 1160/- only shall be submitted by all Participating Bidder in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG. <b>Performance Security</b> 5% of the contract value shall be submitted by the lowest Bidder before the allotment of work order in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG.	Rs. 200/- (Fixed Amount) in the shape of challan through J&K Govt Treasury indicating treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to MH-0059(PWD) Misc. Revenue and uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt on e-tendering portal OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in shape of e-challan through Account No. 0028010200000009, J&K Bank, Udhampur, of Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Udhampur)	10 (twenty days)	Registered/ Reputed Mechanical firms having sufficient experiences for the similar nature work	Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital division Udhampur

Position of Funds:- (Available)  
Position of AA/Tech. Sanction:- (Accorded)

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, terms & conditions, Bill of Quantities can be seen / downloaded from the J&K govt. website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

No: MHDU/TS/ 1629  
09/10/2024  
DIP/J-5346/24

-sd-  
(Er. Daljeet Singh) Dated:-  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical & Hospital Division  
Udhampur

## EDITORIAL

ANRF-INNOVATION  
AND RESEARCH

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) has emerged as a pivotal initiative aimed at transforming India's research landscape. Launched in response to the increasing need for a robust research ecosystem, the foundation seeks to promote scientific inquiry, innovation, and collaboration across various disciplines. Its primary objective is to enhance the quality of research in India, enabling the country to compete on a global scale.

The vision of ANRF is to establish India as a global leader in research and innovation, fostering an environment where creativity and knowledge flourish. The foundation aims to support research endeavors that address critical national challenges, drive economic growth, and improve the quality of life for citizens. Its mission revolves around creating a multidisciplinary research framework that encourages collaboration among academic institutions, industry, and government agencies.

**Promoting Research Excellence:** ANRF is committed to funding high-quality research projects that have the potential to generate impactful results. By providing grants and financial support, the foundation aims to attract talented researchers and encourage innovative ideas.

Recognizing the importance of state-of-the-art facilities in research, ANRF focuses on upgrading existing infrastructure and establishing new research centers. This investment in physical resources is crucial for facilitating advanced studies and experimentation.

The foundation promotes partnerships between various stakeholders, including universities, research institutions, and industries. By fostering collaboration, ANRF aims to create a synergy that enhances the overall research output and encourages knowledge sharing.

ANRF places significant emphasis on building research capacity within the country. This includes organizing training programs, workshops, and seminars to equip researchers with the latest skills and methodologies. The foundation also seeks to attract and retain top talent by offering competitive fellowships and scholarships.

The foundation aligns its research agenda with national priorities, addressing issues such as health, agriculture, environmental sustainability, and technology. By focusing on these critical areas, ANRF aims to contribute to India's development and improve the well-being of its citizens.

To achieve its objectives, ANRF has launched several initiatives and programs that cater to various aspects of research and innovation:

ANRF offers a range of grant programs for researchers at different stages of their careers, from early-stage researchers to established scientists. These grants support projects that show promise in addressing pressing societal challenges.

The foundation provides fellowships to attract promising researchers from both national and international backgrounds. These fellowships not only provide financial support but also offer mentorship and networking opportunities.

ANRF organizes workshops, conferences, and symposiums to facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration among researchers. These events serve as platforms for presenting research findings, discussing challenges, and exploring new ideas.

To bridge the gap between academia and industry, ANRF actively seeks partnerships with private sector organizations. These collaborations aim to commercialize research outcomes, ensuring that innovative ideas translate into practical solutions.

ANRF is dedicated to promoting science and research among the general public. Through outreach programs, the foundation aims to raise awareness about the importance of research and inspire the next generation of scientists.

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation stands at the forefront of India's research and innovation efforts. By providing financial support, enhancing infrastructure, promoting collaboration, and focusing on national priorities, ANRF is poised to make significant contributions to the country's scientific landscape. As India seeks to strengthen its position as a global leader in research, the foundation's initiatives will play a crucial role in fostering a culture of innovation and inquiry. Through sustained efforts and strategic partnerships, ANRF is not only advancing scientific knowledge but also addressing the pressing challenges faced by society, thereby paving the way for a brighter and more prosperous future for all.

## Saffron surge in Jammu &amp; 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 unopposedly. Thus it can be opined that there was saffron surge in Jammu region baring some places of Piranchal 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 out 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 benefited 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)*

## Psychology Presents Diverse Career Opportunities Beyond Mental Health

By: Vijay GarG

When someone talks about building a career in psychology, it is striking how often the conversation centres around becoming a mental health professional. In fact, eight out of ten students express this aspiration. When asked what draws them to psychology, their responses often revolve around a few central themes: a desire to understand themselves, a knack for communication, and a passion for helping those struggling with mental health issues.

These motivations point to one overarching topic - mental health. This focus is not only valid but crucial, given the World Health Organisation's identification of a substantial shortage of mental health professionals in our country.

It is important to recognise that within the overarching theme of mental health, psychology offers numerous career pathways aimed at assisting individuals and improving their overall well-being in various domains. For instance, clinical

psychology focusses on assessing, diagnosing, and treating mental health disorders.

Counselling and therapy provide support and guidance to individuals facing personal challenges, while experts in organisational behaviour work to enhance employee well-being and productivity in workplaces.

How psychology offers opportunities beyond counselling and therapy.

EXPANDING BEYOND TRADITIONAL ROLES

While addressing the shortage of mental health professionals is important, it is equally crucial to recognise that psychology offers a wealth of diverse career paths beyond traditional roles. There are numerous fields that apply the principles of psychology to address issues and challenges spanning different industries.

For example, sports psychology helps athletes enhance performance, cope with the pressures of competition, and focusses on improving mental resilience and overall performance of individuals and teams. Forensic psychology applies psychological principles to legal

issues, criminal investigations, and offender rehabilitation.

CORE CAREER PATHWAYS IN MENTAL HEALTH

Furthermore, psychology interacts with other branches of the sciences, providing new avenues to explore. For example, neuropsychology studies the relationship between the brain and behaviour, examining individuals with brain injuries or neurological conditions in hospitals, research settings, or private practice.

Human factors and ergonomics examine how people interact with machines and technology to improve usability, safety, and efficiency in industries such as aerospace, automotive, and consumer products.

There are other branches of psychology that not only provide career opportunities but offer a chance to profoundly impact people's lives directly and contribute to one's personal development. For example, school psychology focusses not only on enhancing teaching and learning experiences but also on assessing student needs and implementing behavioural interventions

in educational settings.

From clinical psychology and counselling to sports psychology, forensic psychology, and beyond, the field provides chances for meaningful impacts across diverse industries. Psychology remains pivotal in addressing complex challenges and promoting personal growth, organisational effectiveness, and scientific advancement.

Encouraging students to explore these varied career paths can lead to a more comprehensive understanding of the field and contribute to improving the overall well-being of individuals and society at large. As psychology continues to evolve, its flexible career pathways offer fertile ground for personal and professional development, fostering impactful contributions in our constantly changing world.

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

## Officials from NHPC Ltd & Project Vijayak/ Project Himank call on LG Mishra

Top News Report

LEH, Oct 11: The Head of Project, Chutak Power Station, Jitendra Kumar from NHPC Ltd, called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Advisor to the LG, Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS; Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, Dr L Franklin, IAS and Secretary, PWD, Michael D'Souza, IAS, were present in the meeting.

Jitendra briefed the LG about various initiatives taken by NHPC Ltd to benefit the people of Chutak, including providing water supply and developing children park/football ground for the community, etc. He



also informed the LG that NHPC Ltd can assist the villagers in repairing the damaged irrigation khuls. The LG inquired about the grievances of the residents of Chutak regarding the land acquired by NHPC Ltd for the hydro project and the steps taken to address

the issues of the village. He asked Shri Jitendra to explore the option of developing Chutak as a model village under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. He also asked Shri Jitendra to meet the Advisor to the LG to discuss other initiatives that could be

taken in the nearby villages of the Chutak Power Project. Col Rishab Jain from Project Vijayak and Col Tarun Kalai from Project Himank called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the LG Secretariat. Advisor to

the LG, Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS; DGP Ladakh, Dr SD Singh Jamwal, IPS; Commissioner/Secretary to the HLG, Dr L Franklin, IAS and Secretary, PWD, Shri Michael D'Souza, IAS, were present in the meeting.

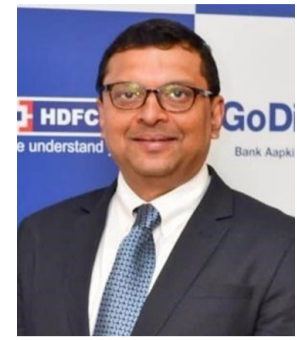
Col Rishab apprised the LG about various infrastructure projects in UT Ladakh to be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh on October 12, 2024.

The LG discussed the bridge at Shayok with Col Rishab of Project Vijayak and asked DGP Ladakh, Dr SD Singh Jamwal, IPS, to monitor the crossing of overloaded vehicles over the bridge to avoid its snapping and consequently casualty to the public.

## RBI Credit Policy announcement emphasised centrality of domestic conditions in monetary policy decision making: Barua

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 11: The RBI changed its stance to neutral while keeping its policy rate unchanged at 6.5%, said Abheek Barua, Chief Economist, HDFC Bank while commenting on the RBI Credit Policy. "The recent policy announcement emphasised the centrality of domestic conditions in monetary policy decision making. Post the rate cuts by several G7 central banks in recent days, some sections of the market had anticipated that it could trigger a response and influence domestic rate decisions as well. However, the policy



announcement today only made a peripheral mention of the differential global monetary policy actions, focussing more on domestic developments," he added. Abheek Barua further said, "The RBI acknowledged the durable disinflationary trend underway although highlighting

lingering domestic and global risks – signalling future rate action would be data dependent. Given this, if conditions evolve favourably over the coming months, a December rate cut is not off the table."

"The central bank also signalled comfort on the extent of transmission to credit markets, implying some satisfaction with the impact and effectiveness of monetary policy. This aligns with the central banks' comfort with easing liquidity conditions over the last two months and sets the stage for liquidity conditions to remain in surplus (on average) going forward," Barua added.

## LG Mishra chairs meeting to discuss 15 MVA 220/66 KV GIS Sub-Station at Kochik in Kargil



Top News Report

LEH, Oct 11: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) chaired a meeting at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat to discuss the Design, Supply, Manufacturing, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 15 MVA, 220/66 KV, GIS Sub-Station at Kochik in Kargil. The project's objective is to provide grid-connected 24x7 reliable power supply to 27 villages in the Taisuru block of Kargil district.

Chief Engineer, PDD, Tsewang Paljor, informed the LG that Kochik is 80 km far from Kargil and 35 km near to 66/11 Sankoo sub-station. He also informed that the areas such as Namsuru, Taisuru, Panikhar, Yuljuk, Thulus Pursa, Kochik and Parkachik are currently being electrified through the 80 km-long 11 KV Panikhar feeder from the Sankoo substation, with low voltage level being one of the major issues

due to the long distance. He further informed that the 35 km S/C 66 KV line was proposed from Sankoo Sub-station to Kochik by POWERGRID under PMDP Rural scheme and accordingly a 66/11 KV Sub-station at Kochik was proposed by Ladakh Power Development Department (LPDD) and approved in SDP 2022. However, the 66 KV line by POWERGRID was descope due to the closure of the scheme, informed Shri Paljor.

Chief Engineer, PDD, Paljor informed that the 66/11 KV Kochik Sub-station was approved under the State Sector Plan, which is currently under construction and expected to be completed by the end of 2025. He also informed about the feasible option of Line In-Line Out (LIL/O) arrangement and 220/66 KV GIS from the 220 KV Drass-Padum line traversing nearby Kochik Station of 1.5 km under which areas from Rangdum would be covered. He further

informed the LG about the advantages of the project, which is expected to cost around Rs 45 crores.

Inquiring about the utility of the project and its benefit to the maximum people residing in the area, the LG stated that high-tension lines should not pass through the inhabited villages and no agricultural land should be affected by the project. He also stated that options must be explored to fund the project under RDSS to provide reliable power supply to the residents of Taisuru block in Kargil district.

Advisor to the LG, Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS; DGP Ladakh, Dr SD Singh Jamwal, IPS; Commissioner/Secretary, Dr Vasanthakumar N, IAS; Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, Dr L Franklin, IAS; Secretary, LPDD, Vikram Singh Malik, IAS; Chief Engineer, PDD, Tsewang Paljor; Superintendent Engineer, PDD, Tundup Spalzung and other officials from LPDD were present in the meeting.

## JKBS grieves demise of pious lady Chanchla Devi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 11: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha at a condolence meet held here today, condoled the



sudden demise of pious lady Chanchla Devi resident of Kanji House, Jammu.

Chanchla Devi had all the qualities of head, heart and soul, said JKBS General Secretary R.L.Kaith adding

that when the people are pious and good even nature mourns their death.

In every step, Chanchla Devi supported and encouraged her husband Gian Chand Sandhu. Whether day or night she was always there for him no matter what the condition was, said JKBS members.

May Almighty rest her noble soul in peace and give strength to her bereaved family to bear this immeasurable loss boldly, prayed JKBS members, who included Messers Gian Chand Sandhu, Daya Ram Motan, Ujjagar Dass Motan, Pagu Ram Lakhotra, Ram Lal Sandhu, Om Parkash Kaith, Ram Lal Kaith, Tara Chand Bassa, Ashok Kumar Bassa and Kewal Krishan Sandhu.

## Late Ratan Tata should be given Bharat Ratna: Chandel

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 11: Hinduist BJP leader Raju Chandel has called for the late Ratan Tata to be posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna on January 26. In a press conference, he described Tata as a key figure in shaping modern India, highlighting his dual legacy as a prominent industrialist and philanthropist.

"I have written to our honorable Prime Minister, advocating for this recognition," Chandel stated. "Ratan Tata is not defined by any singular name; he is truly the creator of modern India. His contributions to the nation are immeasurable, and his dedication to upliftment has marked him as a priceless gem of our country."

Chandel elaborated on Tata's remarkable journey, noting his beginnings in the salt industry



and significant advancements in defense research. "He addressed the needs of both the rich and the poor, contributing across diverse fields in ways that are unparalleled," he added.

Emphasizing the need for a collective recognition of Tata's legacy, Chandel urged all politicians and citizens to honor him. "It is our duty to ensure that Ratan Tata's contributions are celebrated without politicization. His life was a testament to service and patriotism," he concluded, asserting that Tata's impact will forever be remembered in India.

## Chairperson ATVK salutes Martyr Hilal Bhat, condemns Pakistan's terror agenda

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 11: Tasleema Akhter, the Chairperson of the Association of Terror Victims in Kashmir (ATVK) and a prominent human rights activist, has paid tribute to Hilal Ahmad Bhat, a courageous soldier from Anantnag who sacrificed his life in the service of his nation.

In her statement, Akhter honored Bhat's bravery and highlighted the ongoing struggle for peace in the Valley. "Pakistan's



relentless sponsorship of terrorism has claimed yet another innocent Kashmiri life," she said, emphasizing the need for global awareness regarding the

## GDC Budhal celebrates NSS Foundation Day 2024 with enthusiasm

Top News Report

BUDHAL, Oct 11: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College Budhal celebrated NSS Foundation Day on October 10, 2024, with vibrant enthusiasm. Originally scheduled for September 24, the event was postponed due to faculty election duties. Over 200 students participated in a program filled with cultural and formal activities.

The celebration featured esteemed guests, including Dr. M.K. Waqar, Retired Principal of J&K Higher Education Department, who served as the Chief Guest. Dr. Anwar Hussain Shah, Principal of GDC Koteranka, was the Guest of Honour, while Prof. Mohd Iqbal Raina, Head of the Department of Physics at GDC Rajouri, and Dr. Mohd Sajar, Head of the Department of Persian at GDC Koteranka, also



attended. Sania Ajaz, a senior NSS volunteer, conducted the proceedings.

The program commenced with a ceremonial lamp lighting, symbolizing knowledge and service. NSS volunteers performed Saraswati Vandana, a Tawawat-e-Quran recitation by Tofiq Ahmed, and Gurbani by Pooja Devi, reflecting interfaith harmony. The College Tarana and the NSS song added to the pride of the occasion.

Prof. Manzoor Ahmed Dar, Principal of the college, welcomed the dignitaries with bouquets. NSS Programme Officer Prof. Tahir Nadeem presented the annual NSS report, summarizing the unit's activities and achievements over the past year.

The cultural segment featured solo performances by Tahir Iqbal and Shenaz Akhter, and impactful speeches on "Ill Effects of Drug Abuse" by Mohd Aaqif and "Women Empowerment" by Sania Ajaz. A captivating Pahari group dance, solo dance by Pooja Devi, and a lively bhanga by Mehar Naseer and Manpreet Singh further engaged the audience. The high-

light was a poignant skit performed by NSS volunteers, addressing the serious issue of rape, which left a significant impact on attendees. The segment concluded with a poetry recitation on "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" by Rozia Kouser.

The distinguished guests shared their insights, with Chief Guest Dr. M.K. Waqar emphasizing the role of NSS in developing socially responsible citizens and urging volunteers to continue their impactful work. Guest of Honour Dr. Anwar Hussain Shah noted NSS's contribution to enhancing the college's reputation, encouraging students to take pride in their involvement. Prof. Mohd Iqbal Raina and Prof. Mohd Sajar also highlighted the importance of social service.

A felicitation ceremony recognized outstanding NSS volunteers and staff, presenting them with mementos for their exceptional contributions. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Tahir Nadeem, expressing gratitude to everyone involved in making the celebration a success.

## GDC Neeli Nallah Udhampur celebrates International Girl Child Week 2024

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Oct 11: To address the issue of declining Girl Child Sex ratio along with the related issues of empowerment of girls, GDC Neeli Nallah Udhampur celebrated International Girl Child Week 2024 from 2nd Oct. to 11th Oct. 2024 to further empower the strength, resilience, and potential of girls while simultaneously promoting their rights and opportunities.

The whole event was celebrated under the able guidance of Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) Seema Arora. The program initiated with her views on the importance of girl's education, their rights, and promoting gender equality.

She commenced the celebration and expressed her views about multiple initiatives and campaigns implemented by the government for the betterment of the girls. Plans such as Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana, Post Office Term Deposit Plans, Balika Samridhhi Yojana etc. are there to fulfil the dreams



of higher education and a prosperous career of a girl child.

Prof. Shaista Yasmeen, Incharge of the programme, highlighted that girls should be treated equally and should get all the opportunities in our society for the welfare of the Nation as a whole. Multifarious activities were carried on in the college, like Oath taking ceremony, awareness through short film entitled "Komal" on child sexual abuse. An exhilarating Skit was dramatized on girl's vision for the future, Yoga exercises were also performed to aware the students for healthy lifestyle.

A poster making competition was also organized on the occasion of

International Girl Child Day in which Madiha Mir, Tanaya Buthyal, and Anamika Sharma secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively. Students lauded slogans like "Don't kill Girl in Womb when she might bring Country to Gloom", "Don't let their lives End before it even Begins". The Principal, staff and students attended the programme with enthusiasm and ensured that the students would keep their words and their commitment for the survival, protection and empowerment of the girls.

Prof. Shaista Yasmeen was the Convener of the programme. Dr. Sunil Tanoch and Prof. Rekha Sharma were the members of organising committee.

# As legendary actor Amitabh Bachchan turns 82 today, here's a look at 10 of his iconic films

'Jab mai chhota tha, tab superstar kaun tha? Aur ab jab mai buddha hone jaa raha hoon, tab bhi superstar kaun hai?' tonight in the iconic show Kaun Banega Crorepati, you will see superstar Aamir Khan utter these lines! And you already know the answer. Of course, it is Amitabh Bachchan, the ageless, eternal megastar.

Today as he turns 82, the clichéd expression 'age is just number' no longer sounds trite, rather acquires a new meaning and life. Each time we think Big B has done it all, he manages to surprise us with just that new role, a new part, a new nuance. The purists might argue the Dadasaheb Phalke recipient has given more memorable parts in his second innings, a term he thoroughly disagrees.

He feels today parts are more commensurate with his age. Indeed, lately we have seen him in more unconventional roles. But remember the angry man of Zanjeer, the angst ridden Vijay of Deewaar, Bhaskar of Anand, eternal friend of Namak Haraam, comical Anthony of Amar Akbar Anthony, undercover agent of Don and many, many more. He has delighted cinephiles all these

years since he made his debut in 1969 with Saat Hindustani.

Picking up his 10 best films is perhaps the toughest job on the Earth for is there a film in which his acting prowess has left you less than impressed? More recently, we watch Kalki with a growing disbelief, awe and wonder. As indestructible Ashwathama in the dystopian sci-fi meets mythology actioner, we are reminded only Big B can be an action hero at 81. And at 82, the Unchai actor can only climb more mountains!

Anand (1971)

Counted quintessentially as a Rajesh Khanna film, Amitabh matched him frame-to-frame, scene-to-scene. In this film that finds mention in all possible lists to watch before you die, if your heart bleeds for the titular character, Anand, you feel equally strongly for Big B's Bhaskar. His helplessness at not being able to save his dying friend is a truly poignant portrait of loss and grief.

Namak Haraam (1973)

Rumour has it that in this ode to friendship, Amitabh's character was meant to die. But Rajesh Khanna, a bigger star in those days, insisted upon reversing



the death angle. Nevertheless, Amitabh's character, Vicky, walked away with all the sympathy for his part as the son of a rich industrialist intact. A searing performance and yet another example of his blazing intensity.

Sholay (1975)

The blockbuster will be remembered for many reasons as it has more than one fable-like stories attached to it. But one reason certainly is Amitabh's understated act and tongue-in-cheek one-liners. If tumhara naam kya hai Basanti still brings a smile, the chuckle-some scene when he takes his friend

Viru's proposal to Basanti's mausi is a cinematic treat!

Deewaar (1975)

Ah, that iconic Yash Chopra film, the mirror to the angst of 1970s! With his Vijay, the anti-establishment, anti-hero, was born to Hindi cinema. If Zanjeer launched him as 'angry young man,' Deewaar ensured the title became synonymous with his name. That brooding expression, the emotional-scape of a son, the endearing nonchalance and action-inspired by Hong Kong's martial arts cinema, not a thing felt out of place.

Chupke Chupke (1975)

Once again a Hrishikesh Mukherjee film in which Big B proved that he didn't necessarily had to lead from the front to make a mark. A laugh riot and testimony to his impeccable comic timing, as this English professor pretending to be a botanist, it's not just Dharmendra the lead hero, he too brings the house down. Always a must-see for fans of comedy genre.

Don (1978)

If both the film and his double role hadn't been so good, it would not have spawned remake decades later or tempted Shah Rukh Khan to step into his khai ke paan benar-se wala dancing shoes. Only the vintage Don ko pakadna mushkil hee nahi namumkin hai, who can deliver it better than the original Don?

Black (2005)

Hailed as cinematic masterpiece and path-breaking film of Sanjay Leela Bhansali, the story of a blind, deaf and mute girl, and her relationship with a teacher afflicted with Alzheimer's saw Bachchan in a role of a lifetime. It also won him a National Award.

Paa (2009)

Unrecognisable, as the 12-year-old son of his real life son Abhishek Bachchan, this is one performance

of his that will go down in cinematic history as one of his very best, as it also fetched Amitabh a National Award. As a self-confessed fan of Amitabh, director R Balki not only taps into the actor's many strengths, the Cheeni Kum director is even believed to have created Shomitabh as an ode to his baritone voice!

Piku (2015)

Who can ever forget Bhashkor Banerjee of this Shoojit Sircar directorial? A delightful film it is simply made all the more delectable with Bachchan's portrayal of a father, annoying and progressive in equal measure. As this eccentric man suffering from constipation, in a part which could easily have become a caricature, instead turns into a sharp character study of a parent. A National Award-winning performance!

Naa sirf ek shabd nahi ... apne aap mein ek poora vakya hai ... In Pink when he utters those lines with such dramatic flourish, you could watch him and the film all over again. Playing a retired lawyer Deepak Sehgal, defending young girls who have not followed the rule book that girls in India are meant to, it is once again a stellar act.

## Sayantani Ghosh says onscreen characters affect an actor on an individual level

Sayantani Ghosh, who is seen as Vindhya Devi in Ravindra Gautam and Raghuvir Shekhawat's Dahej Daasi, feels that while an actor contributes to a character by bringing them to life, the character also helps an actor on an individual level.

She said, "We do take certain things from our onscreen characters. For example, in one of my shows, the character Neela really stood out because she broke the typical mindset people have about stepmothers.

Usually, people think a stepmom is someone who could never truly love her stepchildren, but Neela shattered that stereotype. Her character was so well received and is still loved by the audience today. She showed that you can genuinely love someone else's child as your own." Sayan-



tani also stressed that it was important for an actor to draw a line between their real and reel selves, "Some-

times, if you get too deeply involved in your character, it can really mess with your mental peace."

## Armaan Malik nominated for MTV Europe Music Awards



Singer-songwriter Armaan Malik has been nominated for the upcoming edition of the MTV Europe Music Awards (EMA) in the category of Best India Act for his single Always, which features British singer-songwriter, Calum Scott.

Armaan said, "I'm beyond ecstatic to be nominated once again for the MTV EMA's Best India Act. Having won this honour twice before, this third nomi-

nation feels especially meaningful. As an Indian artiste, representing my country on such a prestigious global stage is both humbling and surreal. There are so many incredible artists alongside me, and I wish everyone the best of luck! Now, it's over to the fans and the MTV EMA voters."

This marks the third time that Malik has been nominated for this award in the past four years. Earlier, he won

the MTV Europe Music Award for Best India Act in 2020 for his debut English single Control and in 2022 for his English single You.

Meanwhile, Always showcases Armaan's versatility and ability to seamlessly blend different musical styles, further solidifying his position as a global music sensation. Additionally, the singer has also officially submitted the track for Grammy consideration in three categories of Best Pop Duo/Group Performance, Song of the Year, and Record of the Year.

Earlier this year, Armaan released his single Tera Main Intezaar, which was bankrolled by Bhushan Kumar, with lyrics by Kunaal Vermaa. The song explores the pain of longing for a lover's return, capturing the emotions of separation and the desire for reunion.

## International Girl Child Day| Neha Dhupia on being a mother to daughter Mehr

Proud mother, actor Neha Dhupia reflects on her journey of raising a daughter as she talks to us on International Girl Child Day. Neha and her husband, actor Angad Bedi, are parents to two children — daughter Mehr, 5, and son Guriq, 3. Speaking about her experience, she shares, "The emotion that prevails when you raise a girl child is unmatched. My daughter and I think alike — we both think outside the box. I cherish her questions and acknowledge both her intelligence and innocence.

The emotions that flow between a mother and daughter, especially when you're raising a



girl, are incomparable. There's a unique mix of fear, strength, vulnerability and raw emotion that's hard to describe.

At the same time, I feel I need to multiply my own strength

a hundredfold to ensure she imbibes it."

When it comes to the values she is instilling in her daughter, Neha reveals that teaching Mehr about boundaries has

been a priority: "The first word I taught her was bas. Bas, I don't want more food. Bas, I don't want to play anymore. Bas, I don't want my cheek pulled. Even at her young age, she understands and respects her boundaries, and she knows how to set them."

Despite the progress in society, Neha acknowledges there's still a long way to go: "While we live in a world that is so accepting and beautiful, it's still demoralising to hear stories where the girl child isn't accepted. I want to tell all parents out there — we are the lucky ones. We are the chosen ones."

## Jigra box office Day 1 prediction: Alia Bhatt's thriller set for Rs 5 crore opening

Alia Bhatt's big Dussehra release this year, Jigra, hit the screens today, October 11. The film is directed by Vasan Bala and marks the big Bollywood debut of actor Vedang Rana. Despite the makers spending enough on marketing the film and trying to cash in on the presence of a star like Alia, Jigra is expected to take an average opening at the box office.

The film is a prison-break action thriller, a genre which doesn't find a mass audience pretty



instantly in India. Unless backed by exceptional word-of-mouth, which will be determined towards the end of the

day, a film like Jigra is bound to have a single-digit opening at the box office.

Produced by Karan

Johar's Dharma Productions, Jigra is expected to record around Rs 5 crore nett on its first day domestically. This is a decent business for a film from this genre releasing in the post-pandemic time, but if it receives positive word-of-mouth, it can really move beyond expectations. Not to mention that it is also going to benefit from the Dussehra festive weekend, which is likely to increase its performance at the ticket window.

If everything goes well and the film manages to

garner positivity for its content, the first week-end collection could very well be in the range of Rs 20-25 crore nett. However, the real test will begin on Monday, which will determine its lifetime projection before the giant Diwali releases hit the screens.

Jigra is also facing a box office clash with Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Vala Video, starring Rajkumar Rao and Tripti Dimri. Both the films have got a good three-week-long window at the box office to perform and impress the audience.

## Deepika Padukone opens up on being criticised for her diction and accent

Deepika Padukone recently reflected on the negativity she had to deal with in the initial days of her Bollywood career and how she handled it with positivity. The actor, in an interview with Arianna Huffington, Founder of the Huffington Post and Thrive Global, recalled how she was criticised for her accent and diction in Shah Rukh Khan's Om Shanti Om. While speaking to Arianna in the interaction for The Live Laugh Love Foundation's YouTube channel, Deepika stated that there were a few bad reviews after the release of her first film, which influenced her perspective towards work.

Deepika, while recalling the criticism post Om Shanti Om, said, "The actress said that one should sometimes take criticism or negativity also in a positive way. "When my debut movie Om Shanti Om released, there were quite a few bad reviews, but I specifically remember this one bad review which pushed



me to work on myself. It spoke about my accent, my diction, my talent and capabilities. Negativity is sometimes a good thing, it's what you make of it. The larger picture is what do you do with that criticism, how do you look at it positively."

Deepika will be next seen in Rohit Shetty's Singham Again as Shakti Shetty aka 'Lady Singham.' The action-thriller starring Ajay Devgn in titular role also features Kareena Kapoor, Tiger Shroff, Ranveer Singh, Jackie Shroff, Arjun Kapoor and Akshay Kumar in pivotal roles. Singham Again is scheduled to release on November 1, 2024. Deepika will begin shooting for the sequel to Nag Ashwin's Kalki 2898 AD in 2025. The dystopian action-thriller will also feature Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan and Kamal Haasan. Deepika will also be seen in R Balki's adaptation of Robert De Niro-Anne Hathaway's Hollywood film The Intern.

## BJP will sweep assembly polls in Maharashtra, Jharkhand: Nadda

BILASPUR (HP), Oct 11 (Agencies): After Haryana, the BJP would also sweep the upcoming assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, BJP president J P Nadda asserted on Friday.

Nadda, who paid obeisance at the Shri Naina Devi temple here, said the people were happy with the performance of the BJP government at the Centre led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Talking to a group of reporters, Nadda said the BJP had achieved a lot in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir and credit for this goes to the people and the almighty.



The Union Health Minister was here to offer prayers after the party's victory in the polls.

"The party would also sweep upcoming assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand," he said. Bucking anti-incumbency, the ruling BJP pulled off a hat-trick

of wins in Haryana to retain power and halt Congress' comeback attempt in the assembly elections.

The BJP also made notable gains in Jammu and Kashmir by winning 29 of the 90 seats. The National Conference-Congress combine is set to form government in the Union territory.

## Nayab Saini likely to take oath as Haryana Chief Minister on October 15: Sources



CHANDIGARH, Oct 11 (Agencies): BJP leader Nayab Singh Saini, who steered his party to a record third consecutive victory in the Haryana Assembly polls, is likely to take oath as the Chief Minister again on October 15, sources told agency.

A 10-member committee has been formed by the state chief secretary to oversee the oath-taking ceremony arrangements. The committee will be headed by the Panchkula District Commissioner. Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi and other top leaders, including Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled states, are likely to attend the oath-taking ceremony.

The BJP had indicated during the elections that Nayab Singh Saini, who replaced Manohar Lal Khattar as the Chief Minister in March, will be its choice for the top post if it wins. Nayab Singh Saini is from the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), a major vote bank in the state.

Earlier this week, Nayab Singh Saini and other newly-elected

BJP MLAs of Haryana met with the senior party leadership in Delhi. Nayab Singh Saini also met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP chief and Union Ministers Amit Shah and JP Nadda.

Bucking a decade of anti-incumbency and defying exit poll predictions, the BJP scripted a turnaround in Haryana and ended up with its best-ever haul of 48 of 90 Assembly seats. The Congress, which was eyeing a comeback, finished with 37 seats.

The JJP, which allied with the BJP from 2019 till March 2024, was decimated. The AAP failed to open its account and the INLD managed to win just two seats. Three independents, including Savitri Jindal, also won and have decided to support the BJP.

## RG Kar horror: Junior doctors' fast unto death enters 6th day, one of them critical

KOLKATA, Oct 11 (Agencies): Junior doctors agitating over the rape and murder of their colleague at the RG Kar hospital continued their fast unto death for the sixth day on Friday, even as the condition of one of the medics on hunger strike, who was hospitalised, remained "critical", health officials said.

Aniket Mahato was admitted to the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on Thursday night after his health condition deteriorated due to continuous fasting since Sunday.

A five-member medical board was constituted to oversee the treatment of Mahato, the health officials said.

"He was brought to the hospital in an unconscious condition. His condition is quite unstable," Dr (Prof) Soma Mukhopadhyay, CCU in charge of the hospital, told agency.

"We hope that he will improve in the next few days. We have formed a five-member team," she said.



Meanwhile, the health condition of six others who are also on fast started showing signs of decline, said another junior doctor Debasish Halder, who is present at the protest site in Esplanade area in central Kolkata.

"We have kept all the necessary medical support like an ICU ambulance and others ready here so that we can manage if anyone requires hospitalisation," he said.

Halder said that their fasting would continue until their demands were fully addressed by the state government.

The health condition of the two other junior medics at the North Bengal Medical College and Hospital, who are also on fast

unto death, has deteriorated, another health official said.

"We will not withdraw our hunger strike whatever the situation is... and those on fast are unwilling to call it off. Some others are likely to join the fast-unto-death demonstration by today. But I tell you, the state government will be solely responsible for whatever happens to them," Halder said.

Senior doctors concerned about the health condition of the junior medics have appealed to them to withdraw the hunger strike.

"These young doctors are our future. How can the state government be so insensitive? They must act fast before things go out of hand," Dr Hiralal Konar,

one of the joint convenors of the Joint Platform of Doctors, West Bengal, told agency.

The protesting doctors have been demanding justice for the deceased woman medic at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital and immediate removal of Health Secretary NS Nigam.

Their 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 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.

## Noel Tata, Ratan Tata's half-brother, appointed as chairman of Tata Trusts



MUMBAI, Oct 11 (Agencies): Noel Tata, the half-brother of the late Ratan Tata, will be the next chairman of Tata Trusts, sources told agency on Friday.

He will become the 11th chairman of Dorabji Tata Trust and the sixth chairman of Ratan Tata Trust. A formal announcement on the appointment of Noel is likely soon.

67-year-old Noel has been chosen to lead the trusts, which collectively own Tata Sons,

during a board meeting in Mumbai on Friday.

The meeting comes following the demise of Ratan Tata (86) on Wednesday due to age-related health conditions. The meeting was held to discuss the succession plans, with the trust deeds providing clear guidelines for appointing the next chairperson to ensure a smooth leadership transition.

Tata Trusts, the umbrella body that manages 14 trusts and owns 66 percent of Tata Sons, plays a critical role in shaping the direction of one of India's largest conglomerates.

Noel Tata, son of Naval H Tata and Simone N Tata, currently chairs several Tata companies, including Trent, Tata International Ltd., and Voltas Ltd.

Having worked largely in the

shadow of his half-brother, the late Ratan Tata, Noel is now poised to lead Tata Trusts, which includes Sir Ratan Tata Trust & Allied Trusts and Sir Dorabji Tata Trust & Allied Trusts, the holding and promoter entity of Tata Group companies.

He also serves as a trustee on the boards of the Sir Ratan Tata Trust and the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and has been associated with the group for over four decades.

Since joining the group in the early 2000s, Noel has played a significant role in its expansion. In recent years, he has taken on more prominent roles, including his induction into the board of Sir Ratan Tata Trust in 2019 and his appointments as vice chairman of Titan in 2018 and Tata Steel in 2022.

Noel's last executive role was as Managing Director of Tata International Ltd., where he oversaw the company's growth from a turnover of \$500 million to over \$3 billion between 2010 and 2021.

Prior to that, he led Trent Ltd., growing it from a single-store operation in 1998 to more than 700 stores across multiple formats.

A graduate of Sussex University, UK, Noel also completed the International Executive Programme (IEP) from INSEAD.

His three children—Leah, Maya, and Neville—were appointed trustees of several trusts under the Sir Ratan Tata and Sir Dorabji Tata Trusts earlier this year, with each holding leadership roles across Tata companies.

## Girls must have equal opportunities to lead, mere slogans cannot usher change: Kharge

NEW DELHI, Oct 11 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday called for ensuring that girls have equal opportunities to lead and are included in decision-making processes, asserting that mere slogans cannot usher in real change.

In a post on X on International Day of the Girl Child, Kharge said gender equality and justice are essential for achieving social, political, and economic prog-

ress. "This year's theme for #DayOfTheGirl is 'Girls' vision for the future' which conveys both the need for urgent action and persistent hope, driven by the power of girls' voices and vision for the future," he said.

"We must ensure that girls have equal opportunities to lead by placing them at the forefront of change, amplifying their voices, responding to their needs, and including them in deci-



sion-making processes," the Congress president said.

Mere slogans cannot usher in real change, he asserted.

potential. On December 19, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognise girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.

The International Day of the Girl Child focuses on the need to address the challenges girls face and promote their empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights.

## Former Congress corporator shot dead in Ujjain; wife detained



UJJAIN, Oct 11 (Agencies): A former Congress corporator was shot dead at his residence in Madhya

Pradesh's Ujjain on Friday morning following which police detained his wife, an official said.

Haji Kalim Khan, alias Guddu, aged around 60, was shot in the head at 5 am at his home at Wazir Park Colony within the jurisdiction of Neelganga police station area, he said.

The official said police have detained his wife.

Initial investigations suggest the killing was the result of a land dispute in the family, he said.

An attempt on Khan's life had also been made a few days ago, he added.

## Pune hit-and-run: Senior executive of private firm detained for killing food delivery man

PUNE, Oct 11 (Agencies): A food delivery man was killed after a high-end car driven by a senior executive of a private firm hit the two-wheeler he was riding in Pune in the early hours of Friday, police said.

Ayush Tayal (34), who was driving the car, fled from the spot after the accident near Tadigutta in the city's Mundhwa area.

Later, he was detained after police tracked him down with the help of CCTV footage, he said.

"The food delivery person has been identified as Rauf Akbar Shaikh. The car driven by Tayal crashed into Shaikh's bike. The accused fled the scene but was later detained after police used footage of CCTV cameras to identify the car and then track him down with its



details," said Additional Commissioner of Police Manoj Pail.

Tayal is a senior executive at a firm in Ranjangaon MIDC and he has been sent for a medical examination to ascertain if he was intoxicated at the time of the accident, the official said.

A case has been registered against Tayal under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Motor Vehicles Act, he added.

## Month after Coast Guard chopper crash, body of missing pilot recovered off Gujarat coast

AHMEDABAD, Oct 11 (Agencies): The body of a missing Indian Coast Guard pilot has been recovered over a month after a helicopter belonging to the maritime security agency crashed into the Arabian Sea off Gujarat coast, officials said on Friday.

Three crew members went missing after the ALH MK-III helicopter fell into the Arabian Sea off Porbandar on September 2.

While the bodies of two crew members were recovered subsequently, a search continued to



trace Rakesh Kumar Rana, the pilot in command of the mission.

Rana's body was recovered from the sea, nearly 55 km southwest of Porbandar, on October 10, the Coast Guard said in a release.

"ICG (Coast Guard) along with the Indian Navy and other stakeholders continued unremitting search efforts to locate Commandant Rakesh Kumar Rana, who was the Pilot in Command of the mis-

sion. His mortal remains will be cremated as per service traditions and honour.

A warm salute to the three brave souls from Rank and File of the Indian Coast Guard who laid down their lives in the line of duty," it said.

The Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) of the Coast Guard with four crew members met with the accident while trying to evacuate an injured man on board motor tanker Hari Leela, nearly 30 nautical miles from the Porbandar coast.

While one of the four

crew members on the helicopter, diver Gautam Kumar, was rescued immediately, three went missing. A day later, the bodies of pilot Vipin Babu and diver Karan Singh were recovered.

But Rana remained missing, prompting a massive search operation.

As part of the search by the Coast Guard and Indian Navy, more than 70 air sorties and 82 ship days involving several vessels were pressed into service, added the release.

## Israeli strikes kill 22 in Beirut as Hezbollah leader evades assassination

*Kamala Harris calls for 'de-escalation' in Gaza and Lebanon*

BEIRUT/JERUSALEM, Oct 11 (Agencies): Israeli strikes killed 22 people and injured more than 100 in central Beirut on Thursday, Lebanese authorities said, as a senior Hezbollah official evaded an Israeli assassination attempt in the city, according to three security sources.

In the country's south, two United Nations peacekeepers were injured when an Israeli tank fired at a watchtower at the force's main headquarters in Ras al-Naqoura, prompting the U.N. to say its personnel were facing increasing danger.

The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah erupted one year ago when the Iranian-backed group opened fire in support of Palestinian militant group Hamas at the start of the Gaza war.

It has intensified dramatically in recent weeks, with Israel bombing Beirut's southern suburbs, the south and the Bekaa Valley, and killing many of Hezbollah's top leaders.

Wafiq Safa, who heads Hezbollah's liaison and coordination unit responsible for working with Lebanese security agencies, was targeted by Israel on Thursday night but survived, the security sources said.

The Israeli strikes hit a densely packed residential neighbourhood of apartment buildings and small shops in the heart of Beirut.

Israel did not issue evacuation warnings ahead of the strikes and had not previously attacked the area, which is removed from Beirut's southern suburbs where Hezbollah's headquarters have been repeatedly bombed by Israel.

Lebanon's Health Ministry reported 22 people killed and 117 wounded. Among the dead



was a family of eight, including three children, who had evacuated from the south, according to a security source.

Agency witnesses said at least one strike hit near a gas station and a thick column of smoke was visible. A large fire blazed in the background as rescue workers searched the rubble for survivors, according to video broadcast by Hezbollah's al-Manar television.

There was no immediate comment on the incident by Israel.

After Israel killed a series of high-ranking Hezbollah officials in recent weeks, including top leader Hassan Nasrallah, Safa was among the few surviving senior figures as the group's upper echelons struggled to reorganise.

The attempt to kill Safa, whose role merges security and political affairs, marked a widening of Israel's targets among Hezbollah officials, which previously focused on the group's military commanders and top leaders.

PEACEKEEPERS 'IN JEOPARDY'

The United Nations' peacekeeping force in Lebanon, UNIFIL, said two of its personnel were injured when an Israeli tank fired at a watchtower on Thursday at its main headquarters in Ras al-Naqoura, hit-

ting the tower and causing the peacekeepers to fall.

The two peacekeepers were from Indonesia's contingent and were in good condition after being treated for light injuries, Indonesia Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said in a statement.

The safety of more than 10,400 U.N. peacekeepers in Lebanon is "increasingly in jeopardy" and operations have virtually halted since late September, U.N. peacekeeping chief Jean-Pierre Lacroix told the Security Council. That coincides with Israel's escalation of its conflict with Lebanon.

UNIFIL called attacks on peacekeepers "a grave violation of international humanitarian law."

The White House said the U.S. was deeply concerned by reports that Israeli forces fired on U.N. positions and was pressing Israel for details.

Israel's military said in a statement its troops operated in the Naqoura area, "next to a UNIFIL base." "Accordingly, the IDF instructed the U.N. forces in the area to remain in protected spaces, following which the forces opened fire in the area," Israel's statement said, adding it maintains routine communication with UNIFIL.

The peacekeepers are determined to remain at their posts despite Israeli attacks and orders by Israel's military to leave, the force's spokesperson Andrea Tenenti said.

In New York, Israel's U.N. Ambassador Danny Danon said Israel recommends UNIFIL relocate 5 km (3 miles) north "to avoid danger as fighting intensifies".

Danon said attacking Hezbollah was necessary so 70,000 displaced Israelis could return to homes in northern Israel.

The Middle East remains on high alert for further escalation in the region, awaiting Israel's response to an Iranian missile strike on October 1.

U.S. vice president and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris said de-escalation was needed.

"We have got to reach a ceasefire," Harris told reporters as she departed Las Vegas, while commenting on the situations in Gaza and Lebanon. "We've got to de-escalate." A ceasefire remains elusive in Gaza and Lebanon.

Washington's occasional condemnation of Israel over civilian deaths has mostly been verbal with no substantive change in policy.

Israeli strikes have killed at least 2,169 people in Lebanon over the last year, the Lebanese government said in its daily update. The majority have been killed since September 27, when Israel expanded its military campaign. The toll does not distinguish between civilians and combatants.

Hezbollah cross-border fire at Israel has killed 53 people over the same period, more than half of them civilians, according to Israeli authorities.

## Russia launches 4th aerial attack in a week against Ukraine's Odesa region

KYIV, Oct 11 (Agencies): A nighttime Russian missile strike on Odesa killed at least four people including a 16-year-old girl, regional authorities said Friday, in the latest in a series of attacks this week on the southern Ukrainian region that are likely intended to disrupt the country's grain exports.

Four Russian missile and drone attacks on the Odesa region this week have killed 14 people and wounded around 20, according to local officials. The strikes have hit merchant ships and damaged port infrastructure in the region, which is a vital hub for Ukraine's agricultural exports through the Black Sea.

An attack on Odesa late Wednesday killed nine people and hit a container ship sailing under the Panamanian

flag — the third attack on a merchant vessel in four days, according to regional Gov. Oleh Kiper.

The apparent Russian effort to frustrate Ukraine's exports, which bring vital revenue for a national economy battered by more than two years of war, coincided with a renewed push by Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to ensure continuing military and financial support from his country's Western partners.

Ukraine's stretched and short-handed army is currently under heavy pressure in the country's eastern Donetsk region. Russian forces recently pushed it out of the Donetsk town of Vuhledar and are now in control of about half of nearby Toretsk, local administration chief Vasyl Chynchyk said Friday. To stop the

losses, Zelenskyy needs to secure more help.

Russia last year tore up an agreement that allowed Ukraine — one of the world's biggest suppliers of grain and other food staples, especially to developing nations — to export produce safely through the Black Sea.

Months later, and amid successful Ukrainian attacks on Russia's Black Sea fleet which forced its navy to back away from the coast, Ukraine established a shipping corridor that hugs the coast down to Turkey and opens a way to the Mediterranean Sea.

A special insurance program has provided affordable coverage to shippers who have carried millions of tons of cargo out of Ukraine, but the latest attacks could jeopardize that arrangement.

## Fire breaks out on an oil tanker off Germany's Baltic Sea coast, all 7 crew members are rescued

BERLIN, Oct 11 (Agencies): A fire broke out on an oil tanker off Germany's Baltic Sea coast on Friday and all seven crew members were rescued, German authorities said.

The German Maritime Search and Rescue Service said it was alerted to the fire on the 73-meter (240-foot)

-long German-flagged vessel, the Annika, shortly after 9 a.m. Friday. A rescue boat picked up the crew members about an hour later.

The tanker was carrying about 640 metric tons of oil, according to Germany's Central Command for Maritime Emergencies.

The tanker was northeast of Kuehllingsborn, a seaside resort west of the port city of Rostock. The rescue service said black smoke was visible from the coast.

Three ships were at the scene fighting the fire, and several more firefighting teams were en route to the tanker by helicopter.

## Russia's Putin begins a visit to Turkmenistan for forum with regional leaders, including Iran

ASHGABAT, Oct 11 (Agencies): President Vladimir Putin began a visit to Turkmenistan Friday, speaking at an international forum with Central Asian leaders and the president of Iran.

The Kremlin said Putin will discuss the situation in the Middle East with Iranian president Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the conference in the Turkmen capital, Ashgabat.

Moscow and Tehran signed a \$1.7 billion deal for Iran to export drones to Russia after Putin invaded Ukraine in 2022, and the U.S. also believes it has transferred short-range ballistic missiles.

The conference is being attended by other regional leaders includ-



ing Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari and the heads of the other Central Asian nations, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

In his opening remarks at the forum, Putin repeated again that he wants to build "a new world order" with Russia's friends and partners, according to video shared by the Kremlin.

As well as meeting the Iranian leader, Putin is

expected to hold talks with the Turkmen president, Serdar Berdimukhamedov.

Berdimukhamedov, 43, was elected in March 2022 to succeed his father, Gurbanguly, who had run the gas-rich country since 2006.

Turkmenistan has remained largely isolated under autocratic rulers since it became independent following the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

## Iran warns Gulf nations against helping Israel, says 'will respond accordingly'

TEHRAN, Oct 11 (Agencies): Amid the escalating threat of the Middle East conflict expanding with Israel planning an offensive against Iran, Tehran warned Gulf Arab nations against allowing their airspace or military bases to be used in such an attack. A senior Iranian official stated that any assistance to Israel would be unacceptable and would draw a response.

"Iran made it clear that any action by a Persian Gulf country against Tehran, whether through the use of airspace or military bases, will be regarded by Tehran as an action taken by the entire group, and Tehran will respond accordingly," the senior Iranian official told news agency agency.

Iran's warning came



amid reports that Tehran had cautioned Gulf nations, stating that if 'Israeli supporters' intervene directly in the conflict, their regional interests would be targeted. Gulf Arab nations fear that Iran may strike their oil facilities if they align with Israel in the ongoing conflict.

"The message empha-

sed the need for regional unity against Israel and the importance of securing stability. It also made clear that any assistance to Israel, such as allowing the use of a regional country's airspace for actions against Iran, is unacceptable," the Iranian official stressed.

On October 1, Iran

launched a barrage of around 200 rockets at Israel, most of which were intercepted and destroyed by Israeli defence systems. This was in response to the killing of the Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah and Israel's military actions in Lebanon and Gaza. According to reports, Israel is preparing to retaliate, with some suggesting that oil facilities in Iran could be targeted as part of a broader offensive.

In light of the escalating threat, Gulf states have urged the United States to prevent Israel from targeting Iran's oil facilities. Citing top sources in Arab nations, Reuters reported that Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar have also refused to allow Israel

to use their airspace for any attack on Iran and have communicated this stance to Washington.

Last week, the Gulf Arab states, which met in Doha, sought to reassure Iran of their neutrality and urged Tehran to de-escalate. "The Gulf states think it's unlikely that Iran will strike their oil facilities, but the Iranians are dropping hints they might from unofficial sources. It's a tool the Iranians have against the US and the global economy," Ali Shihabi, a top Saudi commentator said earlier.

Meanwhile, Israel continued its assault on Lebanon, intensifying attacks against the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah. In the latest major strike, 22 people were killed and dozens injured in Lebanon.

## Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Japanese organisation of atomic bombing survivors Nihon Hidankyo

STOCKHOLM, Oct 11 (Agencies): The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded Friday to Nihon Hidankyo, a Japanese organisation of survivors of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, for its activism against nuclear weapons.

Jorgen Watne Frydnes, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said the award was made as the "taboo against the use of nuclear weapons is under pressure."

He said the Nobel committee "wishes to honour all survivors who, despite physical suffering and painful memories, have chosen to use their costly experience to cultivate hope and engagement for peace."

Hidankyo chairperson Tomoyuki Mimaki, who was standing by at Hiroshima City Hall for the announcement, cheered and teared

up when he received the news.

"Is it really true? Unbelievable!" Mimaki screamed.

Efforts to eradicate nuclear weapons have been honoured in the past by the Nobel committee.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons won the peace prize in 2017, and in 1995 Joseph Rotblat and the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs won for "their efforts to diminish the part played by nuclear arms in international politics and, in the longer run, to eliminate such arms."

This year's prize was awarded against a backdrop of devastating conflicts raging in the world, notably in the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan.



"It is very clear that threats of using nuclear weapons are putting pressure on the important international norm, the taboo of using nuclear weapons," Watne Frydnes said in response to a question on whether the rhetoric from Russia surrounding nuclear weapons in its invasion of Ukraine had influenced this year's decision.

"And therefore it is alarming to see how

threats of use is also damaging this norm. To uphold an international strong taboo against the use is crucial for all of humanity," he added.

Alfred Nobel stated in his will that the peace prize should be awarded for "the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

Last year's prize went to jailed Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi for her advocacy of women's rights and democracy and against the death penalty.

The Nobel committee said it was also a recognition of "the hundreds of thousands of people" who demonstrated against "Iran's theocratic regime's policies of discrimination

and oppression targeting women."

In a year of conflict, there had been some speculation before the announcement that the Norwegian Nobel Committee that decides on the winner would opt not to award a prize at all this year.

The Nobel prizes carry a cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (\$1 million). Unlike the other Nobel prizes that are selected and announced in Stockholm, founder Alfred Nobel decreed the peace prize be decided and awarded in Oslo by the five-member Norwegian Nobel Committee.

The Nobel season ends Monday with the announcement of the winner of the economics prize, formally known as the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.



# Sawhney thanks supporters, leaders

## “Will continue to work towards welfare of Jammu East”

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 11: Former J&K Minister and senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney held a meeting with various Congress and National Conference (NC) leaders at Sidhra, Jammu East, to express his gratitude for their unwavering support during the recent Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections.

As the Congress-NC alliance candidate for the Jammu East constituency, Sawhney acknowledged the significant backing he received from both party leaders and the public throughout the campaign.

In his address, Sawh-



ney recognized the election outcomes, stating, “Despite the results, we respect the public’s decision. Democracy is about the will of the people, and

we hold that in the highest regard.”

He emphasized that his commitment to the issues he has championed remains steadfast,

regardless of the electoral results.

Sawhney reiterated his dedication to voicing the concerns of the people in alignment with the party’s

vision. “We will always stand for the causes that matter to the people of Jammu East and beyond,” he stated. He committed to actively working to ensure that the common people’s concerns are heard and prioritized.

He highlighted that unity, development, and welfare would continue to be central to their efforts moving forward. “The issues of Jammu East will be at the forefront of our agenda in the coming months,” Sawhney affirmed. He expressed heartfelt thanks to all leaders, party members, and citizens for their continued support over the past month, reinforcing his commitment to serving the community.

# BJP leader Sahil Gupta, SHO Bishnah take blessings at Mata Ka Jagran



Top News Report

BISHNAH, Oct 11: In celebration of the Holy Navratras, a Mata Ka Jagran was organized in the village of Chak-Waziru, Bishnah Constituency. BJP Leader and Municipal Committee Councillor Sahil Gupta attended the event alongside SHO Bishnah Mustaj Chaudhary.

The Jagran, organized by local committee mem-

bers, featured the presentation of Mata’s Chunari and picture to the chief guests, Sahil Gupta and SHO Mustaj Chaudhary, as well as ASI Naresh Digra, ASI Daljit Singh, and PSO Poshia Ram.

The event commenced with heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to everyone present for the auspicious occasion of Navratras.

Key members of the organizing committee,

including Madan Lal, Vinod Kumar, and Girdhari Lal, along with Panch Dharam Chand and Lambardar Sudagar Mal, also participated in the program. Other committee members, including Sunil, Sandeep, Nikhil, Sorab, Akash, Sameer, Aman, Sonu, Arun, Janu, Rajat, Punu, and Rocky, were also in attendance, contributing to the festive atmosphere of the gathering.

# ‘World Mental Health Day: Prioritizing mental well-being in modern world’

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 11: Every year on October 10th, the world comes together to observe World Mental Health Day, a critical occasion dedicated to raising awareness about mental health issues. Despite its paramount importance, mental health remains one of the most neglected areas of public health. It is crucial to recognize that mental health is more than just the absence of mental disorders; it constitutes a state of well-being where individuals can realize their own abilities, cope with normal life stresses, work productively, and contribute to their communities.

In our fast-paced, technology-driven society, the changing lifestyle and relentless pace of modern life have adversely affected mental health. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these existing issues, leading to unprecedented challenges for individuals globally. As this pandemic has thrust itself upon us, the lack of preparedness for its mental and social implications is a significant concern. Amid our collective effort to combat the virus, mental health has all too often been sidelined.

According to data from the World Health Organization (WHO), mental illness now accounts for approximately 30% of the non-fatal disease burden and 10% of the overall disease burden worldwide, which includes various forms of mortality and disability. Notably, 7.5% of the Indian population suffers from some form of mental disorder, with mental illnesses comprising one-sixth of all health-related disorders. Alarm-



ingly, India is responsible for nearly 15% of the global burden of mental, neurological, and substance use disorders.

While the COVID-19 pandemic looms large as the elephant in the room, we must not overlook the critical importance of mental health. With lockdowns and social distancing measures in place, issues like depression have come to the forefront. The younger generation, in particular, has gravitated towards online gaming and content consumption as a means of escape, further complicating their mental health landscape.

Depression is a significant concern, distinct from normal mood swings or transient emotional responses to life’s challenges. When persistent and of moderate to severe intensity, it can impair an individual’s ability to function in daily life—resulting in poor performance at work, school, and within families. Tragically, depression can lead to suicidal thoughts and actions; nearly 800,000 people die by suicide each year, making it the second leading cause of death among 15 to 29-year-olds. In the Rajouri District of Jammu and Kashmir, depression has been

identified as a primary cause of suicides, further exacerbated by the ongoing pandemic.

This common mental disorder affects individuals of all ages, including children and adolescents. Symptoms often include anxiety, disrupted sleep patterns, appetite changes, feelings of guilt or low self-worth, and difficulty concentrating. Understanding that depression results from a complex interplay of social, psychological, and biological factors is essential in addressing this issue.

Fortunately, there are effective prevention programs that can help reduce the incidence of depression. Community-based approaches, particularly school initiatives aimed at promoting positive thinking among children and adolescents, can make a significant difference. Given our current circumstances, it is imperative that parents encourage their children to engage in yoga and physical exercise while fostering a supportive home environment. Such interventions can not only reduce parental depressive symptoms but can also enhance outcomes for children facing behavioral challenges. Additionally, exercise programs tailored for the elderly

can play a crucial role in alleviating the effects of depression.

To tackle the stigma surrounding mental health issues, we must work col-

lectively and compassionately. The path toward overcoming this crisis requires cooperation among all stakeholders, including families, health-care providers, schools, and communities. By prioritizing mental health, we can foster a healed, peaceful, and progressive society—where mental well-being is viewed as an integral component of overall health.

Let us embrace this World Mental Health Day by acknowledging the silent battles that many face and reaffirming our commitment to fostering a community where mental health is prioritized and supported.

# Col (Dr.) Arvind Jha appointed as Chief Advisor

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 11: Vansh Sabre Sports Foundation, J&K Secretary Kuldeep Kumar Gupta told that Col. (Dr.) Arvind Jha has been appointed as Chief Advisor of (VSSF) Vansh Sabre Sports Foundation.

Col. (Dr.) Arvind Jha is a sports Psychologist who has qualified Ph.D in sports Psychology and LL.M (Sports Law) will provide selfless service and unconditional support to sports person, teams of Jammu and Kashmir with respect to Psychological training which is now an integral part of sports training & performance. He will also render legal advises on sports law.

The selfless services of Col (Dr.) Arvind will also help and guide to sports person for fetching Medals at National/



International event and will help and guide to sports person for getting Sports Jobs.

The President Dr. Anil Padha of the foundation a great step taken by the Foundation for the development, Motivation and result orientated growth for the betterment of sports persons who are an asset of Jammu and Kashmir UT in the field of Sports to mark their name on India’s Map with Medals and hope this would be new step for motivation of Sports Persons in J&K.

# Principal Secretary APD reviews progress on CSS, CAPEX, NABARD, HADP projects



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 11: Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department Shailendra Kumar held a comprehensive review meeting today and valued the physical and financial progress of projects under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), CAPEX budget, NABARD and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

Attendees included the Mission Director HADP, Director Agriculture Jammu, Director Horticulture Jammu, Director Command Area Development Jammu, Director Finance APD, Secretary APD, Director Planning APD, Managing Director JKAGROS, Director Research SKUAST-J, Joint Directors of Agriculture and allied departments, Deputy Director Planning, Scientists from SKUAST-J, Chief Agriculture Officers and Chief

Horticulture officers of all districts of Jammu Divisions.

During the meeting, the officers presented detailed updates on implementation status, challenges encountered and strategies to expedite pending activities under these schemes. The Principal Secretary emphasized the importance of ensuring timely execution and fund utilization under all schemes, while also addressing challenges faced in project implementation.

Principal Secretary reviewed the significant advancements made under HADP, which has been instrumental in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and improving farmers’ livelihoods. Special attention was given to ensuring the expenditure under HADP, CSS and CAPEX projects align with the overall goal of infrastructure development in the

sector. Discussions also centered on CSS projects, focusing on key flagship schemes like PDMC, SMAM, RAD, RKVY, PKVY, ATMA, NFSM and others aimed at boosting rural prosperity.

The Principal Secretary directed all departments to work in close coordination to meet the set targets for the fiscal year and ensure the benefits reach the grassroots level. He also stressed the need for proper monitoring mechanisms and regular updates on the progress of all projects.

The review included a specific assessment of the Baba Jitto Irrigation Project, with a call for increased focus on Rainfed Area Development. The meeting concluded with an actionable plan aimed at accelerating the completion of ongoing projects, reinforcing the commitment to enhance the agricultural ecosystem in the region.

# Int’l Day of Girl Child celebrated in District Ramban

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Oct 11: In a significant initiative toward empowering young women, the District Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and Police, organized a seminar and career counselling session at Government Degree College Ramban to mark International Day of the Girl Child.

The event, aimed at guiding college girls toward diverse career opportunities, included thought-provoking discussions, skits, and mentorship. In line with the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, and under the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Rahul Gupta, the program witnessed active participation from various stakeholders.

# FROM PAGE 1

## Centre, J&K Govt will implement what will be best according to Constitution: Naqvi On Statehood

having within their party.”

“There were many Congress leaders who were saying that they wanted to be the Chief Minister of Haryana. They were unaware of the people’s verdict and started declaring themselves the winners even before the results came in,” Naqvi concluded.

## 20 killed in attack on miners in Pakistan

Police, paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC) and rescue teams rushed to the spot after the attack.

Police sources said that the death toll may rise as some injured minors were in critical condition.

SHO Dukki Hamanyan Khan said the armed men first gathered the miners in different groups and then sprayed bullets on them.

Heavy contingents of police and FC have cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to arrest the culprits.

Pakistan has witnessed a worrying surge in terrorist attacks in the ongoing year with fatalities in the first three quarters surpassing the numbers recorded in all of 2023.

As per the third Quarterly Report (Q3) issued by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), the number of fatalities rose to at least 1,534 in the first three quarters of 2024 compared to 1,523 in 2023.

Balochistan, bordering Iran and Afghanistan, is home to a long-running violent insurgency. Baloch insurgent groups have previously carried out several attacks targeting CPEC projects.

The banned Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) accuses China and Islamabad of exploitation of the resource-rich province, a charge rejected by the authorities. It has fought a long-running insurgency for a separate homeland.

Earlier this week, two Chinese nationals were killed and 17 people injured in a suicide attack by a Baloch insurgent group that targeted a convoy of Chinese workers near Pakistan’s busiest airport in Karachi.

## Bakshi stadium witnesses overwhelming turnout for 2nd Legends League match

my idol since childhood. Watching him live in Srinagar is a dream come true,” said Bilal Ahmad, a local fan who traveled from Baramulla with his friends to watch the game.

“I am super excited to watch Chris Gayle playing in front of me. It’s an amazing feeling, and I can’t wait to see him in action,” said Zahid from Srinagar.

The cricket match has drawn not only fans from Srinagar but from across the Valley, with many viewing the tournament as a milestone for Kashmir sports.

Faizan Qadir, a cricket enthusiast, said that they never imagined such a high-profile cricketing event would be held in the Valley, and it is a proud moment for all.

Meanwhile, as the tournament continues, the excitement among spectators grows, especially with the possibility of watching cricket icons like Chris Gayle live. The event has become more than just a series of matches—it represents a celebration of cricket in Kashmir, bringing the community together through their shared love of the sport.

## J&K Admin Introduces New Recruitment Rules for Police Gazetted Service

will be overseen by the Departmental Pro-

motion Committee (DPC).

The new guidelines apply to several cadres, including General, Telecommunication, Ministerial, Stenography, Photography, Police Transport Workshop, and Arms/Ammunition.

Two selection committees, led by senior officials, including the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, have been formed to supervise promotions and placements within the department.

The fresh rules replace the Jammu and Kashmir Rules (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules of 2002, aiming to create a more structured and transparent recruitment process for the police force.

With the notification now in force, the reforms are expected to strengthen the recruitment system across various cadres.

## State Election Commission begins process of Panchayat polls in J-K

turnout.

The national and regional political parties had fielded candidates in all 90 seats besides record number of independents were also in fray.

In the political battle, JKNC secured victory with 42 seats and crossed the majority

mark with alliance partner congress who secured 6 seats. BJP secured 29 seats in the state.

## Ramban residents demand swift police action to trace missing mother of 4

They said that the candle march in a dozen villages of Ramban reflects the community’s collective concern and determination to ensure justice prevails.

When contacted SHO Ramban, Vijay Kotwal said that a missing report has been lodged at Police Station Ramban and investigation is in full swing. He said husband (suspected) of Salesha Devi is being summoned to Police Station Ramban on daily basis and is questioned in the missing case of his wife.

Kotwal said we are hopeful to solve the mysterious missing of the lady very soon.

## Light snowfall over higher reaches of J&K on Oct 16, 17: MeT

“Light snow over few higher reaches with thunder/gusty winds at isolated places during October 16-17,” the official added.

## GCoE Jammu organizes events to mark World Mental Health Day

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 11: The Psychological Counselling Cell in collaboration with Literary Club and Department of Physical Education and Sports of Govt. College of Education, Jammu, organized a series of impactful events today to mark World Mental Health Day. The celebrations aimed to raise awareness about mental health and promote the importance of maintaining mental well-being in society.

The event was graced by Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal of Govt. College of Education, Jammu, as the Chief Guest. Dr. Shah Nawaz Choudhary and RJ Juhie from Big 92.7 FM served as the Guests of Honor for the occasion. The program commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp, symbolizing knowledge and enlightenment. Dr. Ambica Kumari, Convener of the Psy-



chological Cell and Organizing Secretary for the event, delivered the welcome address. In her speech, she emphasized the crucial role of mental health in today's world and encouraged society to work collectively to reduce the stigma and effects surrounding mental health issues. She highlighted the need for early intervention, education, and open conversations on this pressing matter.

The event featured three major activities: a Poster-Making Competi-

tion, a Skit Competition, and a Speech event, all revolving around the theme of mental health. Students from B.Ed. Semester 1 and the Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) actively participated, showcasing their creativity and dedication.

In the Poster-Making Competition, the winners were Simran Gupta, 1st, Varleen Kour, 2nd and Muskan Chib, 3rd.

Additionally, consolation prizes were awarded to Meenakshi, Janvi Gupta, and Dhanu Sharma for

their exceptional work. The competition was judged by Ms. Renu from IMFA and RJ Juhie.

The Skit Competition brought forth thought-provoking performances on mental health awareness. B.Ed. Semester 1, Section A, secured the first prize, while ITEP students were the runners-up, and B.Ed. Semester 1, Section C, bagged the third prize. The skit competition was adjudged by RJ Juhie and Dr. Shah Nawaz Choudhary.

In their closing remarks, both Guests of Honor lauded the efforts of the students and faculty in organizing such a meaningful and creative event. They commended the participants for their enthusiasm and the power of their performances in highlighting the significance of mental health.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Ms. Kiran Thapa, Faculty in the

Department of Education. She extended gratitude to all the participants, faculty, and organizers, acknowledging the hard work of the Psychological Counselling Cell, which includes members Ms. Anuradha Choudhary, Dr. Shalini Rana, Prof. Balwan Singh, Dr. Suraj Prakash, Ms. Kiran Thapa, Dr. Rakesh Bharti, Prof. Ramandeep Kralia, and Dr. Sonam Gandotra. Other distinguished faculty members who attended the event were Prof. Prof. Sunanda Rani, Rajinder Kour, Dr. Shalika Gupta, Dr. Shalini Sharma, Prof. Priyanka Mahajan and Prof. Roopa Kumari.

The World Mental Health Day celebrations at Govt. College of Education, Jammu, served as a powerful reminder of the importance of mental health and the collective responsibility we share in fostering a supportive and understanding environment.

## SMVDU faculty delivers Expert Lecture at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

### Top News Report

KATRA, Oct 11: Dr. Pabitra Kumar Jena, Assistant Professor at the School of Economics, Faculty of Management, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, shared his expertise as a resource person during an Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR)-sponsored "Two-Week Capacity Building Programme (CBP) for Assistant Professors" during 30 September to 11th Oct, 2024.

This course is hosted by the UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre at the Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies (CISLS), School of Social Scienc-



es, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. This programme provided a platform for Dr. Pabitra Kumar Jena to deliver two inclusive lectures on the selection of appropriate statistical tests for data analysis and the interpretation and understanding of logit and probit models. Dr. Jena explored vari-

ous Parametric and Non-Parametric tests for data analysis during his sessions.

He also demonstrated how Logit and Probit models can measure qualitative variables as dependent variable in multidisciplinary research. Delegates across India from various universities have participated in the Two-Week Capacity Building Programme. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, Professor Ashutosh Vashishtha, Dean, Faculty of Management, Dr. Roop Lal Sharma, Head, School of Economics, congratulated Dr. Pabitra Kumar Jena and wished him a bright future.

## Dussehra celebration held at Shiksha Niketan School

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 11: Celebrating festivals is an integral part of learning at Shiksha Niketan. Being a diverse country, through such celebrations, students not only learn the significance behind this festival, but they also learn to embrace other traditions and culture just like they do with their own.

Keeping upto this tradition, the festival of Dussehra was celebrated by Primary Students on Friday.

Dussehra is a major Indian festival, it also marks the end of Navratri. Dussehra sig-



nifies the victory of Lord Rama over the demon Ravana, hence it symbolises the activities related to Dussehra and teacher also shared some valuable information about the festival.

The School's Principal Rameshwar Mengi extended his warm wishes to the students and teachers emphasizing the importance of learning from the festival's values.

## Vivek Bali demands swift action to address water crisis in Payer Pulwama



### Top News Report

PULWAMA, Oct 11: Prominent political leader Vivek Bali has called for urgent action to address the severe water shortage plaguing the Payer Pulwama area in South Kashmir. Residents have been grappling with intermittent water supply for several days, disrupting their daily routines and causing significant hardships.

In a statement issued here, Vivek Bali expressed deep concern over the ongoing water crisis in Payer Pulwama. He emphasized that local residents are struggling

to meet their basic needs for drinking, sanitation, and hygiene due to the lack of access to clean water.

Vivek Bali appealed to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor to prioritize the issue and take immediate steps to restore regular water supply to the affected areas. "The water shortage in Payer Pulwama is a serious concern that requires immediate attention," Bali stated. "Access to clean water is a fundamental right, and it is our responsibility to ensure that it is provided to all residents."

The administration is urged to conduct a thorough investigation into the causes of the water scarcity and implement effective measures to address the problem. Long-term solutions, such as improving water infrastructure and promoting conservation efforts, are also essential to prevent future crises.



Devotees immerse Saakh on the Maha Navmi at Tawi River in Jammu on Friday. Pic by AMAN SHARMA

## NC-Congress will give strong and people-friendly govt in J&K: Goyal

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 11: Congratulating National Conference and Congress for their landslide victory in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, social worker Raj Kumar Goyal has said that it is hoped that both the parties will give a strong and people-friendly government to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that this time there was a storm of National Conference in the assembly elections. The party captured 42 seats due to its pro-people policies. After this, independent candidates also supported the party.



Since the alliance between National Conference and Congress is going on even before the elections, it is expected that the government of both the parties will be formed soon and the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir will be kept in mind. He said that the people

of Jammu and Kashmir are currently troubled due to inflation, unemployment, paper leaks, high electricity bills, smart meters, property tax and attitude of officials of government departments.

People are hoping that after coming to power, the National Conference will take effective steps to eliminate all these problems. In the past also the National Conference government has been working for the people, now again the people have a lot of expectations from them.

He hoped that every promise made to the people before the elections will be fulfilled.

## Ratan Tata's legacy as philanthropist is much larger than as industrialist: Karar Hashmi

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 11: The prominent Socio-Political activist Agha Syed Karar Hashmi expressed his condolences on the death of Ratan Tata, "an extraordinary personality, a visionary industrialist and the great philanthropist of modern India."

In his press statement,

he said that Ratan Tata's legacy as a philanthropist is much larger than as an industrialist as his contribution to philanthropy and charity is invaluable, fulfilled millions of dreams of his compatriots and always helped his country, especially during COVID-19.

He observed that people would never forget Ratan Tata as he

was a legend and would continue to live on as a legend. His ambition was always to use his earnings for the larger interest of humanity.

He said that his death has left a lasting mark across the country had especially on both business and philanthropy. My condolences to his family, friends and the Tata community.

## Three-day training program for Central Public Information Officers concludes

### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Oct 11: The three-day training program for Central Public Information Officers (CPIOs) concluded today with a valedictory ceremony at the Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy (SKPA), Udhampur. The program, which focused on enhancing transparency and accountability in governance, was organized at

SKPA Udhampur. A total of 22 officers including SSPs, Sr. Prosecuting Officers, & DySPs from the Jammu and Kashmir Police participated in this insightful training, which aimed to equip CPIOs with the knowledge and skills necessary for the effective implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005. The program addressed key challenges and highlighted best practices

for handling RTI applications and disclosures.

In his valedictory address, Shri Rajinder Kumar Gupta commended the participants for their dedication to promoting transparency and empowering citizens through the RTI framework. He emphasized the critical role of CPIOs in ensuring access to information and fostering public trust in government institutions.

Key highlights of the training program included in-depth sessions on the provisions of the RTI Act, including recent amendments; Workshops on drafting clear and effective responses to RTI queries while adhering to statutory deadlines; Case studies on managing complex or sensitive information requests; Discussions on legal challenges and the evolving landscape of information rights

In his concluding remarks, Rajinder Kumar Gupta praised the proactive engagement of the participants and encouraged them to continue their efforts to promote openness and accountability in governance. He expressed the commitment to fostering a transparent and accountable governance system through continuous capacity-building initiatives.

## Capacity Building Program on Mission YUVA held at Govt Polytechnic Jammu

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 11: One-day capacity-building program on Mission YUVA (Yuva Udhayami Vikas Abhiyaan) was organized by J&K Skill Development Department at Government Polytechnic Bikram Chowk Jammu.

The program aims at sensitizing all Nodal/Coordinating officers of Labour and Employment, JKEDI, J&K Bank, NABARD and Skill Development Department on the purpose, components and monitoring of Mission YUVA in the UT of J&K. The event was graced by Rajeev Ranjan, Administrative Secretary to the Government of J&K, Skill Development Deptt, Labour and Employment, Revenue Deptt and CEO Mission Youth, who delivered an insightful address on Mission YUVA.

He emphasized on creating a conducive environment where the youth can feel confident to take risks, innovate and build businesses. His speech inspired the participants by offering a comprehensive overview of the project and emphasizing the importance of self-motivation among government employees to foster the culture of entrepreneurship. He highlighted that the success of the Mission YUVA relies on government employees, who play a crucial role in executing the project and generating widespread entrepreneurial impact.

Om Prakash Bhagat, Director, Skill Development Department, while addressing the gathering, shed light on the core concepts and various dimensions of Mission YUVA. Approximately 100 participants from Labour and Employment, JKEDI, J&K Bank, NABARD, along with heads of departments and Lecturers from Government Polytechnic Jammu, Government Women Polytechnic Jammu, and Government Polytechnic Samba attended the program.

The key resource persons of the event were Jaya Bhasin, Dean at Central University Jammu; Shahid Mush-taq, Assistant Professor at Central University Jammu; Shailesh Sharma, AGM at NABARD; and Mohit Hans from J&K Bank, who offered valuable insights into different facets of the YUVA Mission. The key speakers elucidated the various components of Mission YUVA - Eco-System Creation, Institutional Business support Mechanism, Enterprise Development, Creating Business Plans, DPR and Credit Enabling for easy access to entrepreneurs.

The program was organized under the supervision of Arun Bangotra, Principal Government Polytechnic Jammu, and coordinated by Ajay Thapa, Lecturer-I (Mechanical Engineering Department), and Mrs. Deepika Sharma, Lecturer (Computer Science) and Mohd Fiyaz, Under Secretary, Labour and Employment Department.

## 3rd T20I: India eye series sweep, runs from openers against Bangladesh

*Despite its inconsequential nature, India will be eagerly pursuing the twin goals of a series sweep and monitoring the progress of impressive second-line players during the third and final T20I against Bangladesh*

HYDERABAD, Oct 11 (Agencies): Despite its inconsequential nature, India will be eagerly pursuing the twin goals of a series sweep and monitoring the progress of impressive second-line players during the third and final T20I against Bangladesh in Hyderabad on Saturday. India have already bagged the series 2-0 after wins at Gwalior and New Delhi. This Indian bunch under Gautam Gambhir has shown an insatiable hunger for victory, and doubters can glance back at its result-oriented approach during the rain-marred Kanpur Test against the same opposition a few days ago.

Hence, they are unlikely to show any laxity here too as a 3-0 sweep will sit nicely along with the 2-0 margin in the preceding Test series.

Beyond the obvious, India will also look to add new pieces to their white ball jigsaw puzzle ahead of some important assignments such as the Champions Trophy.

So, in a season teeming with showpiece events globally as well as bilaterally, it's critical for the team to have multiple backup options.

In that context, it's clear that Gambhir and his colleagues in the backroom have set in motion the process of finding able support cast to frontline players keeping in mind the long-term



goals such as the ICC event next year.

Be it pacer Mayank Yadav or spinner Varun Chakravarthy, Gambhir wants to take a closer look at them and assess their readiness for the sterner assays ahead.

They haven't been disappointing either in this series.

Mayank, who missed a lot of action since IPL 2024 due to an injury, bowled at over 150 clicks while Chakravarthy returned with a three-wicket haul in his first outing in blue in three years at Gwalior.

The team management will also keep a close eye on the journey of Nitish Kumar Reddy, highly impressive in the Delhi T20 while smashing a 34-ball 74 and returning with a couple of wickets.

Opening woes  
Among these slivers of posi-

tives, the outings of Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma stick out like a sore thumb.

Samson has given a chance to open the innings in this series and it's a godsend in T20s, giving the batter a chance to exploit the six power play overs.

But the Kerala man has two modest outings to show so far — a 19-ball 29, a missed chance to make a fifty in a small chase of 128, and a 7-ball 10.

Samson will have to come up with something special here not to slip away from the eyesight of management, unless they want to give a go to Jitesh Sharma, the second wicketkeeper batter in the squad.

Similarly, the backroom staff would want a substantial outing from Abhishek who too has produced lukewarm 15 and 16 in the last two matches.

The failure of openers has put

a bit of strain on the middle-order, as the hosts were 41 for three inside the power play segment before the middle-order bailed them out in the second T20I.

Apart from that, the team think-tank will decide whether to hand a match to some other worthy names on the bench like leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi and all-rounder Harshit Rana.

As for Bangladesh, the visitors will strive to taste that elusive victory on this tour.

For that, they will need a consistent effort, particularly from seniors like captain Najmul Hossain Shanto, Litton Das and Mustafizur Rahman who all have been disappointing till now.

India: Suryakumar Yadav (C), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Hardik Pandya, Riyan Parag, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Varun Chakravarthy, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Mayank Yadav, Tilak Varma.

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

## India could miss skipper Rohit Sharma for one Test in Australia



NEW DELHI, Oct 11 (Agencies): India could miss the services of skipper Rohit Sharma during one of the first two Test matches in Australia due to personal reasons which have communicated to the BCCI.

The Indian team will embark on tough five-Test series in Australia starting November 22 in Perth and there is a possibility that Rohit could give either the first or the second game in Adelaide (December 6-10) a miss.

"There isn't any complete clarity about the situation. It is understood that Rohit has intimated to the BCCI that there is a possibility that due to a pressing personal matter, he might have to skip one of the two Tests at the beginning of the series," a BCCI source told agency on conditions of anonymity.

"In case, the personal issue is sorted before the start of the series, he might play all five Tests. We will get to know more in coming days," he said.

The 37-year-old Rohit played both the home Tests against Bangladesh. India will next host New Zealand for a three-Test rubber starting October 16.

In case Rohit misses a Test match in Australia, the in-form Abhimanyu Easwaran is likely to be his cover although Shubman Gill and KL Rahul are also players with enough experience in the opening slot.

Easwaran will also be in Australia with the India A team which he is supposed to lead.

However, there is no word who the vice-captain of the Test team will be as there was no official deputy for Rohit during the recent home series against Bangla-

desh. "I think we need to understand that we have got a lot of IPL captains in this team. When you talk about the likes of Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant, hopefully a Yashasvi (Jaiswal) going forward.

"There are a lot of players who have led their franchises," Abhishek Nayar told the media on the eve of the second Test against Bangladesh in Kanpur.

There are three candidates for the role -- Rohit's white ball deputy Gill, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who has led India in a Test in England, and keeper-batter Rishabh Pant.

"I wouldn't look at them as youngsters anymore. Yes, they are youngsters in terms of age and the amount of cricket they have played. But, I think overall, mentally and in their development as a cricketer, I think they have the leadership qualities that are required. You don't need to have a vice-captain that should be designated," Nayar had stated when asked about the red-ball vice-captaincy.

"I think overall, the thought process of these youngsters is of a senior player. It's of someone who has played a lot of cricket."

## Cameron Green likely to miss Border-Gavaskar Trophy due to back surgery: Report

SYDNEY, Oct 11 (Agencies): Australia's fast-bowling all-rounder Cameron Green could miss the all-important Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India, starting from November 22 in Perth, due to a back surgery. Green was diagnosed with a stress fracture in his lower back which cut short his participation in Australia's ODI series against England. A report in cricket.com.au says the all-rounder met with Australian team officials late on Thursday night to discuss his options and has been presented with a choice of surgery or rehab after several days of consultations and analysis.

"Green is expected to decide within the coming days whether to go in for a similar medical procedure on his spine to the one that speedsters James Pattinson, Jason Behrendorff and Ben Dwarshuis have all previously undergone.

"The operation, performed by pioneering Christchurch surgeons Grahame Inglis and Rowan Schouten and which involves screws



and titanium wire to bind vertebrae together, would rule Green out for months," said the report.

Green, who debuted in Test cricket in 2020, was the player of the match in the first Test against New Zealand at Wellington in March after scoring a career-best knock of 174 not out. In 28 Tests, Green has a batting average of 48.57, apart from picking 35 wickets.

If Green decides to go for the surgery, considering he has a previous history of back stress fractures as a teenager, Australia would need a new number six batter and rejig their batting order for the highly-anticipated series against India, as well

as for the tour for Sri Lanka.

In his absence, Mitchell Marsh may have to shoulder bowling workload, while Steve Smith could be back to batting at number four. Marcus Harris, Cameron Bancroft, Matthew Renshaw, Nic Maddinson or teenaged batting prodigy Sam Konstas also come into the mix for opening the batting alongside Usman Khawaja.

Australia have another three Sheffield Shield matches and two 'A' team games against India 'A' at Brisbane and Mackay before the first Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test begins on November 22 at Perth Stadium.

## PAK vs ENG: Pakistan's home humiliation continues as England win in Multan

*Pakistan home humiliation continued in Multan as England thrashed them by an innings and 47 runs to win the first Test and take a lead in the series on October 11, Tuesday.*

MULTAN, Oct 11 (Agencies): England and Bazball compounded the misery at home on Pakistan as they won the Multan Test by an innings and 47 runs. Looking to overhaul England's lead, the hosts could only muster up 220 for 9 in the second innings, with Abrar Ahmed not able to bat on Day 5.

The Pakistan spinner was hospitalised after high fever on Day 4, which meant that the visitors needed just 3 wickets to win the match. Pakistan were on 152 for 6 at the close of day four, with Aamer Jamal and Agha Salman at the crease. The duo had an improbable task in front of them on Friday as they were looking for a way to save the blushes of the hosts and avoid an innings defeat. The start was a bit shaky as Jamal almost gave away his wicket to Atkinson as the ball almost fell into the hands of Carse.

After this, Salman and Jamal would take the attack to the England bowlers and piled on 39 runs and navigated through the first hour of play up until drinks. However, just after the break, Jack Leach would strike as Salman missed a straight one from the England spinner and it struck him in front of the stumps.

Jamal went on the aggressive mode and scored a brilliant fifty



and he was given a lifeline by Ollie Pope as he dropped him. But Leach continued his fine form in the morning and pulled off a blinder to dismiss Shaheen Afridi. Leach would then get rid of Naseem Shah to secure the win and help the visitors take the lead in the series.

Pakistan continue to remain out of sorts at home

During the telecast of the match, the broadcasters pulled up a graphic that showed the sorry state of Pakistan cricket at the moment. Since 2022, Pakistan are only the team to not have won a Test match at home, losing 7 out of the 11 matches.

After the humiliating Bangladesh series loss, the England one was where Pakistan play-

ers had to really step up and show that they can turn things around. There were sure signs of this in the first innings when they piled on 556 runs, with centuries from Abdullah Shafique, captain Shan Masood and Agha Salman.

However, the constant flop shows from main stars Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan continued with the bat and the Pakistan bowlers seemed to be completely devoid of any ideas or motivation. Root and Brook would pummel them into submission on Day 3 and 4 and the hosts were completely clueless on how to respond.

Apart from Saud Shakeel, who bowled just 2 overs and conceded 14, every other Pakistan

bowler went above 100.

While the coaching system may have changed, there seems to be no new mantra that is being brought in by Jason Gillespie and Co. It is back to the drawing board once again, but it seems like this result will bring in more scrutiny.

Harry Brook leads the Bazball rampage yet again in Pakistan. When Bazball came to Pakistan in 2022, they caught the imagination of the fans. During their 3-0 clean sweep, the one name that stood out was Harry Brook, who just seemed to love the tracks in Pakistan. The 25-year-old had scored 468 runs in 5 innings at a staggering average of 93.6.

The England batter has now scored more than half of that tally with his 317 in Multan and seems set to break all sorts of records. Nasser Hussain called him a mix of Kevin Pietersen and Joe Root and the 25-year-old lived up to the billing.

Brook is seen as the heir apparent to Joe Root for England and he seems to be the pioneer when it comes to the Bazball mantra. Unless an almighty drop in form happens, expect Brook to continue his rampage in Pakistan, which is something the hosts wouldn't want with the second Test starting on October 15.

## Rohit Sharma pays visit to injured Musheer Khan and his father Naushad

NEW DELHI, Oct 11 (Agencies): India captain Rohit Sharma paid a visit to Sarfaraz Khan's brother Musheer, who recently met a car accident which ruled him out of the ongoing domestic season. Notably, Musheer was travelling to Lucknow for the Irani Cup game with his father Naushad Khan from his hometown Azamgarh. During their journey, their car

hit a divider and overturned on the Purvanchal Expressway injuring both of them.

While Musheer's father suffered minor injuries, the Mumbai batter fractured his neck which has ruled him out of action for at least three months. To check up on the young star, India captain Rohit Sharma paid a visit to him and even posed for a photograph with Musheer and his father which

was shared by Sarfaraz on his Instagram handle. Musheer also shared a photograph with Rohit on his Instagram handle.

Meanwhile, in Musheer's absence, Sarfaraz notched up a magnificent double hundred for Mumbai in Irani Cup scoring unbeaten 222 (286). Following his innings, he revealed that he had promised his family that he would score a century for his



brother too.

Sarfaraz registered the highest score by a Mumbai batter in Irani Cup on Day 2 surpassing the previous record of 195 runs set by Ramnath Parkar in 1972. The 26-year-old also became the fourth-youngest player to score a double century in the tournament after Gundappa Viswanath (25 years and 255 days), Pravin Amre

(22 years and 80 days), and Yashasvi Jaiswal (21 years and 63 days).

With his knock, he also joined illustrious group of players, including Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Shikhar Dhawan, and Yashasvi Jaiswal, who each have two centuries in the Irani Cup. Courtesy of his innings, Mumbai posted a massive score of 537 in the first innings.

The big fist innings score paid a decisive role for Mumbai in the match as they took a 121-run lead in the first innings. Mumbai even went on to win the Irani cup by the virtue of the first innings lead as they won the tournament after a long gap of 27 years. Sarfaraz was adjudged Player of the Match for his stellar double hundred.

## AIIMS Jammu performs first Image-Guided Non Vascular Intervention

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 11: In a significant advancement in medical procedures, the Department of Radiodiagnosis and Imaging at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Vijaypur, Jammu, has successfully conducted its First Image-Guided Non Vascular Intervention.

This groundbreaking procedure marks a milestone in the hospital's commitment to enhancing diagnostic accuracy and patient care.

This is just the beginning of quality patient care, and under the noble leadership and support of Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director and CEO of AIIMS, Jammu, many advancements are at their germination stage, which in the near future will evolve as a revolution of the high level of quality care at AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu.

The procedure was carried out on a 44-year-old patient in the Department of Radiodiagnosis



& Imaging.

The patient presented with Left buccal and Sub-mandibular swelling who was referred from the department of OMFS. Patient underwent USG guided core needle Biopsy of suspicious Left Level Ib cervical lymph node in the Non-Vascular Intervention Radiology lab extracting tissue samples with minimal discomfort to the patient.

The ultrasound-guided lymph node biopsy was performed by a skilled team of Radiologists

led by Dr. Ankit Prabhakar, Assistant Professor Radiodiagnosis with faculty members including Dr Gita Devi & Dr Khanak Nandolia, Senior Residents including Dr Avinash, Dr Priyanka, Dr Ajay and Nursing Officer Ms Deepika.

This minimally invasive technique allows for real-time imaging of target sites, enabling precise targeting for biopsy. It is particularly beneficial in diagnosing various conditions, including infections, autoimmune diseases,

and cancers.

Glad to inform that Non Vascular Intervention Radiology Services are now available at AIIMS Jammu.

Ultrasound guidance significantly reduces the risk of complications and enhances the accuracy of the biopsy, which is crucial for determining the appropriate treatment plan.

Patients undergoing these minimally invasive procedures can expect a quicker recovery time compared to traditional

biopsy methods, which often require more invasive approaches. The real-time imaging provided by ultrasound allows for immediate assessment and reduces the need for repeat procedures.

This pioneering achievement not only positions AIIMS Jammu as a leader in advanced medical practices but also underscores its dedication to providing high-quality healthcare to the region.

The department plans to expand its use of Ultrasound, Fluoroscopic and CT guided procedures in Intervention Radiology like Biopsy, FNAC, Pig-tail drainages/aspirations, Clip/markers placement, PCN, PTBD etc, further improving diagnostic & therapeutic capabilities and improving patient outcomes.

As healthcare continues to evolve, AIIMS Jammu remains at the forefront, ensuring that patients receive the best possible care through innovative and effective techniques.

## Navratra Prabhat Pheri concludes with grand celebration in Katra



### Top News Report

KATRA, Oct 11: The two-day-long Navratra Festival Prabhat Pheri in the holy town of Katra-Vaishnodevi culminated in a grand and spiritual conclusion today, amidst the chanting of bhajans and the rhythmic beats of drums at bus stand Katra.

This vibrant procession was jointly organized by the Department of Tourism, Jammu & Kashmir Government, and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, in association with the J&K Association of Prabhat Pheri, along with

support from various local organizations.

The finale day was marked by a colourful procession, which was flagged off by the Chief Guest, Baldev Raj Sharma, newly elected MLA of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Constituency, along with Guests of Honour Alka Misra, Assistant Director of Tourism Deptt. and Sardari Lal Dubey, social activist in presence of special guests including Shiv Kumar Sharma former Joint Secretary of the J&K Sports Council and R.S. Manhas retired headmaster were also present to grace the occasion.

The event commenced with the traditional cutting of the red ribbon and the ceremonial breaking of a green coconut, symbolizing auspicious beginnings.

Participants from all walks of life, including artists from art and culture academy J&K UT joined the procession, accompanied by pilgrims from Delhi and other states. The lively crowd chanted "Jaikaras" of Maa Vaishnodevi and danced to the beats of drums as the Prabhat Pheri made its way through the streets of Katra. A notable highlight of the day was the "Jhanki of Maa Sidhidatri" beautifully portrayed by Nikita and children of Amba Kids Panthal, adding to the spiritual fervour.

In his address, Chief Guest Baldev Raj Sharma expressed his heartfelt wishes, asking for the blessings of Maa Vaishnodevi for all on the auspicious occasion of ramnavami. He praised the J&K Association of Prabhat Pheri for their dedication and efforts in organizing such a vibrant and spiritually uplifting event.

Ms Alka Misra emphasized that the prabhat pheri during Navratras is a profound expression of devotion towards Maa Vaishnodevi, and participating in it at Katra is believed to bring her divine blessings.

The Sr. Citizen Forum, led by Rattan Chand, participated in large numbers, adding to the festive spirit. Enthusiastic association members, adorned in colorful Pagaris (traditional headgear), danced with full energy throughout the procession route, symbolizing the joy and devotion of the final day of the Navratra celebrations.

A felicitation ceremony followed where dignitaries and various organizations were honored for their contributions to the success of the event. The chief guest and guests of honour were presented with pagari, chunari, and mementos as tokens of appreciation by the association members. The dignitaries later performed a Kanya Poojan ceremony, which was followed by the distribution of halwa (a traditional sweet) to the pilgrims and participants.

Raj Kumar Padha, president of the J&K Association of Prabhat Pheri, expressed his gratitude to all those who contributed to the grand success of the event. He particularly thanked the J&K Tourism Department, district administration, health and police departments, fire and emergency services, CRPF 6th Battalion, municipal committee, school students, and the people of Katra for their unwavering support.

The event concluded on a high note, with the spirit of devotion and unity shining through, marking a fitting end to this year's Navratra Festival Prabhat Pheri.

## BMO Sankoo celebrates World Mental Health Day



### Top News Report

KARGIL, Oct 11: In recognition of World Mental Health Day, celebrated globally on October 10th each year to raise awareness about mental health issues, the Block Medical Officer of Community Health Centre (CHC) Sankoo, Kargil, in collaboration with the Headmaster of Government Girls' High School Gmpore, organized a series of impactful events under the World Mental Health Program.

This year's theme was "It is time to prioritize Mental Health in the Workplace," focusing on the importance of mental well-being in professional environments.

Dr. Shabir Hussain, Medical Officer at MCCC Gmpore, served as a key resource person.

He emphasized the significance of World Mental Health Day, providing a comprehensive overview of various mental health issues and their associ-

ated signs and symptoms. Dr. Shabir Hussain Medical Officer delivered an insightful presentation aimed at raising awareness and understanding of mental health concerns.

Those present at the event included Dr. Shabir Hussain, Nour Jahn (CHO GM Pore) Headmaster, other officials, and the girl students of Gmpore.

Meanwhile Block Medical Officer Community Health Centre Sankoo, in Collaboration with the Principal of Government Higher Secondary School Barsoo, Celebrated World Mental Health Day.

The program aimed to educate and sensitize students about the dangers of substance abuse, shedding light on its negative impacts on individuals and society, and promoting healthier lifestyle choices.

The event featured Dr. Murtaza Ali, Medical Officer at NTPHC Taiket Barsoo, Abass Ali (Health Educator), Zakiya Banoo (Community Health Offi-

cer), the Principal-in-charge, lecturers, and students.

Dr. Murtaza Ali in his presidential address to the participants on understanding of common mental health disorders, their symptoms, causes, and treatment options.

While Zakiya Banoo delivered a session on self-care, wellness, and the importance of seeking professional help.

Abass Ali, Health Educator at CHC Sankoo, presented a detailed session on emotional well-being. Additionally, the Principal-in-charge of GHSS Barsoo highlighted the causes of mental health problems.

Earlier, Mohammad Ibrahim, a Sociology Lecturer at GHSS Barsoo, delivered the welcome speech and briefed attendees on the objectives of the program.

Mukhtar Hussain, another lecturer, expressed gratitude and presented the vote of thanks to the dignitaries present.

## Delegation of Assistant Professors/ Assistant Registrar calls on LG Mishra



### Top News Report

LEH, Oct 11: A delegation of Assistant Professors comprising Assistant Professor, Dr. Stanzin Shakyia; Assistant Professor, Dr. Jigmat Deachen and Assistant Registrar Nawang Tundup, who were deputed to the Union Territory of Ladakh in 2021, called on the Lieutenant Governor Brigadier. (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat.

Advisor to the LG, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, Dr L Franklin, Secretary, GAD, Michael D Souza, Additional Sec-

retary, Higher Education Kacho Imteaz, Deputy Secretary, GAD, Sandeep Singh, Under Secretary, Higher Education, Rigzin Yangdol, were present in the meeting.

The Assistant Professors and Assistant Registrar, who opted to serve at the University of Ladakh due to their expertise and background, initially came to Ladakh on a two-year deputation. However, four years later, the apportionment process remains unresolved. This uncertainty has created significant challenges for the faculty members and their families, they alleged. During the meet-

ing, the delegates highlighted the importance of finalising the apportionment.

In response, the LG instructed the delegation to submit their relevant papers and documents to the Secretary of Higher Education, Jammu and Kashmir. He further advised them to meet with the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir to resolve the matter concerning the J&K Government. The LG assured the delegation that he would take up the matter of expediting their apportionment process and other issues of the case are complete.

## J&K UT Taekwondo C'ship 2024 from Oct 14

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 11: The Taekwondo Association of Jammu & Kashmir (TAKJ), a member of India Taekwondo and the J&K Olympic Association, announced the J&K UT Taekwondo Championship 2024.

This event is set to take place on the 14th and 15th of October 2024 at the JKSC Hall in Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu. Running from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM on both days, the championship will bring together talented athletes from across the Union Territory to showcase their dedication and skill in the sport of Taekwondo.

On the 14th of October, the day will begin with the official weighing of athletes, followed by the Sub-Junior Matches. The following day, October 15th, will feature the Junior and Senior Matches, culminating in a Closing Ceremony that will honor the efforts and performances of the participants. The event promises to be an exciting platform for students and athletes to demonstrate their abilities in this dynamic martial art.

For those interested in participating, the organizing committee encouraged early registration. Athletes can reach out to Qimti Lal Jain, General Secretary TAKJ (9622173274), Tarsem Sharma, Working President (7006349343), or Ravi, Treasurer (9149826972) for further details regarding registration and participation.

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