

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

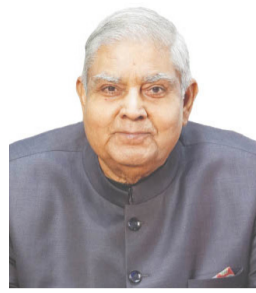
JAMMU, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**Japan Election Campaigns kick off, PM Shigeru Ishiba seeks to retain party's majority**



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## BRIEFLY

**Kerala University faculty Prof KS Chandrasekar appointed VC CLUJ**

JAMMU, Oct 15 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chancellor of the Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), has appointed Prof KS Chandrasekar, Senior Professor, Institute of Management in Kerala, University of Kerala as the Vice Chancellor of the CLUJ.

**AMU faculty Prof Jawaid Iqbal appointed BGSBU VC**

JAMMU, Oct 15 (Agencies): In a significant administrative move, Manoj Sinha, the Chancellor of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) in Rajouri, has officially appointed Prof Jawaid Iqbal as the new Vice Chancellor for a term of three years.

Prof Iqbal, who is currently a professor in the Department of West Asian and North African Studies at Aligarh Muslim University, will assume his role upon taking charge, with specific terms and conditions to be communicated separately.

**Delhi Court extends J&K MP Engineer Rashid's interim bail in terror-funding case till October 28**

NEW DELHI, Oct 15 (Agencies): A Delhi court on Tuesday extended the interim bail of Jammu and Kashmir MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, also known as Engineer Rashid, in a terror-funding case till October 28.

Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh passed the order on the ground of the health condition of Rashid's father, after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said it had verified the documents and was not opposing the application.

The judge also deferred the order on Rashid's regular bail plea in the case till October 28.

The counsel for the accused told the court that this was the last time that his client was seeking an extension. No violation of any of the conditions by

## Supreme Court notice to Centre, EC on fresh plea against freebies

NEW DELHI, Oct 15 (Agencies): The Supreme Court has sought response from the Centre and the Election Commission on a fresh plea against the practice of political parties promising freebies during elections.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra issued notices to the Union of India and the poll panel on a petition filed by Bengaluru resident Shashank J Sreed-



hara. The petition filed by advocate Srinivasan has also sought a direction to poll panel to take effective steps to restrain political parties from making promises of

freebies during the pre-election period.

"The unregulated promise of freebies imposes a significant and unaccounted financial burden on the public exchequer. Further, there exists no mechanism to ensure the fulfilment of pre-poll promises on which votes were secured," the plea said.

The top court tagged the matter with other pleas on similar issue.

The apex court had earlier agreed to list for

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## MP Ruhullah Mehdi seeks apology from Kejriwal for his role in 'decisions hurting J&K'

SRINAGAR, Oct 15 (Agencies): Member of Parliament from Srinagar and JKNC leader Aga Ruhullah Mehdi Tuesday asked the former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to apologize to the people of J-K for his stand in 2019 when the centre stripped J-K of its special status and reorganised the state into two different union territories.

Ruhullah's reaction came after the AAP chief suggested CM-designate Omar Abdullah to

consult him if he finds any difficulty to run what he called a 'half-state'.

"He is a part of INDIA bloc, I don't want to say much, but I want to remind him that J&K is suffering. So before reminding us how to work, he should also introspect and apologise in some ways to the people of J&K, we will give respect to his partnership in the alliance," news agency quoted Ruhullah as saying.

The MP hoped that Kejriwal has

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## SIA releases pictures of terrorists killed in 2023 Rajouri encounter for identification

JAMMU, Oct 15 (Agencies): The State Investigation Agency (SIA) of Jammu and Kashmir Police has released for identification the pictures of two terrorists killed in a gunbattle in Rajouri district in November 2023, officials said.

The two terrorists were killed, along with five soldiers, during a fierce encounter in the Baajimaal area of the Kalakote belt on November 22-23, 2023, as part of a security operation.

The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) from SIA has issued public notices in newspapers including the terrorists' pictures for identifying them, the officials added.

The details of the unidentified terrorists have also been released in a section of media.

## Punjab Panchayat polls: Voting marred by violence; 2 firing incidents reported, 6 injured

CHANDIGARH, Oct 15 (Agencies): Two firing incidents were reported as polling for panchayats in Punjab was underway amid tight security arrangements on Tuesday.

Gunshots were fired at Sohail Sain village in Tam Taran. Four people were injured. Another incident was reported in Patiala, where two people were injured after two factions had a scuf-

fle over voting, which later turned unruly.

Voting for the posts of 'sarpanch' and 'panch' through ballot boxes began at 8 am and would continue till 4 pm.

After the polling, the votes will be counted at the polling stations.

There are 19,110 polling booths, 1,187 of them marked as hypersensitive, for the election. There are 13,225 gram panchayats in

the state. According to an official, 9,398 gram panchayats will elect 'sarpanch'.

3,798 candidates for the post of 'Sarpanch' have already been elected unopposed.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Monday dismissed a bunch of petitions filed against the panchayat polls on several grounds, which

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## Akal Takht expels SAD leader Valtoha for 'character assassination' of jathedars

AMRITSAR, Oct 15 (Agencies): The closed-door conversation between the Five High Priests and Valtoha was also videographed during the meeting that lasted for over two hours.

Akal Takht has "ordered the expulsion" of Virsa Singh Valtoha from the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) while "holding him guilty of denting the credibility" of takht jathedars.

Valtoha was summoned today by Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh for allegedly indulging in the character assassination of jathedars in public domain through social media while being "under the influence of the BJP-

led Central government and the RSS".

After failing to prove his claims with "concrete evidence" before the Five High Priests, assembled at the Akal Takht, Giani Raghbir Singh "directed SAD working president Balwinder Singh Bhundar to expel Valtoha from the party within 24 hours, terminate his primary membership for the next 10 years and bar him from participating in any party activity till then".

The closed-door conversation between the Five High Priests and Valtoha was also videographed during the meeting that lasted for over two hours.

Later,

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## Kishtwar Blaze: 'LG Administration directs immediate relief efforts for villagers affected by fire'

SRINAGAR, Oct 15: A massive fire broke out in Malwarwan village of Kishtwar district, ravaging nearly 70 residential houses and around 30 cow sheds. The devastating blaze, which started around 2 PM yesterday, spread rapidly through the village, leaving widespread destruction in its wake.

Fortunately, no human casualties have been reported, though there are indications that some animals have been affected by the fire. As per reports Indian Air Force has deployed a helicopter to assist



with rescue and relief operations in the area.

District officials, including Deputy Commissioner Doda, are closely monitoring the situation, ensuring that those affected receive immediate aid.

Speaking on the incident, a senior official told, "The fire spread quickly, leaving little time for residents to save their belongings. We

are working to ensure that everyone affected receives prompt assistance."

The Lieutenant Governor's administration has directed all concerned agencies to be on the ground to provide help and relief to the villagers.

"The administration is doing everything possible to assist those impacted by this unfortunate incident. Our priority is to make sure people are safe, and their immediate needs are taken care of," an official from the LG's office stated.

With no casualties

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## Traffic halted on Jammu-Srinagar NH after three-truck collision in Ramban



SRINAGAR, Oct 15: Traffic on the Jammu-

Srinagar National Highway came to a standstill today after a

collision involving three trucks near Nachlana in Ramban district.

The accident has blocked both sides of the highway, causing significant delays for commuters and transport vehicles.

Authorities are working to restore traffic flow as soon as possible. No casualties have been reported so far. Emergency services are on-site, and an investigation into the cause of the accident is underway.

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**MOURNING FROM IN-LAWS**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved and Kamiyogi **Sh Sham Lal Tikoo** H/o Lt Smt Dulari Tikoo (Reshi) (Bengashi) originally from Push Mohalla Anantnag Kashmir who left for heavenly abode on 14th of Oct 2024.

**Mourning from in Laws side** will be held at H No. 4A Bank Colony Govind Nagar Sec-1 Camp Road Talab Tillo Jammu.

**Grief Stricken :**

Smt Shamla Reshi W/o Lt Brij Lal Reshi (0811097471)  
Smt Dulari Reshi W/o Lt Soom Nath Reshi (9419202027)  
Sh J L Parina (Reshi) (9384636091)  
Dr A K Jod and Dr Kundan Reshi (9419142359)

**SAMAST RESHI PARIVAAR FROM HERA MOHALLA ANANTNAG AND RAZDAN'S, KOUL'S, MATTOO'S, TIKOO'S AND RAJNA PARIVAARS**



Sh Sham Lal Tikoo

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow we inform that **Smt. Asha Misri** W/o Sh. Manu Karawal originally resident of Kalusa Bandipur, presently at H.no 23-A, Lane No-2, Block - A, Roop Nagar Enclave Jammu breathed her last on 8th October 2024.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 17th October 2024 (Thursday) at Muthi Ghat near Directorate School Education Jammu at 8:30 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Samast Bhats, Karawals, Mallas, Misris, Jaiswals & Munshis.**

**Phone : 9419132818, 9419132819, 8728886333, 9906037768**



Smt. Asha Misri

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF SMT. ANITA BHAGAT**

(14th June 1957 - 30th September 2020)

**CHOUBARSII**

16th Oct 2024 (Wednesday)  
**Satsang 11:30 AM**

**Venue :**  
Radha Swami Satsang Ghar Lalyana (PS Pura), Near Bijli Ghar, Teh. Bishnah, Distt Jammu

**FONDLY REMEMBERED BY**

**Dr. Inder Parkash (Husband) and Entire Family.**  
Contact: 9313206414, 9797309147, 9015650698



SMT. ANITA BHAGAT

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform you about the untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Rama Devi** W/o Sh. Omi Chand (Ex. Chairperson of B.D.C Bhaderwah). **Tenth Day** will be performed on 16-10-2024 (Wednesday) at our residence R/o Gwari Gatha Bhaderwah at 10.00 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

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



Smt. Rama Devi

**Mob:- 7006093107**

**TENTH DAY AND THIRTEEN DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh Ramesh Nagar** S/o Late Sh Saligram Nagar.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 14/10/24 9 AM.  
**THIRTEEN DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 16/10/24 11 AM at our residence

Address : H No. 44F Rehari Chungi near Gurudwara road Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

**Son and Daughter in law**

Sandeep Nagar & Anjali Nagar

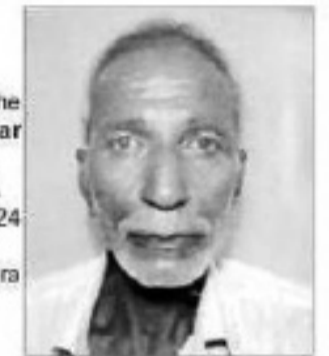
Neelam Nagar - **Wife**

**Daughters and Sons in law**

Jyoti and Arun

Deepika and Harjeet

PH No. 8717043381, 7780874172, 9697515782



Sh Ramesh Nagar

**OBITUARY/TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Bimla Gadru** W/o Sh. Pyare Krishan Gadru, a resident of C-505, Saransh Apartments, Patparganj, Delhi - 92 on 9th October 2024.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 18th October 2024 (Friday) at Murad Nagar Ghat (Near Delhi) at 9.30 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. Pyare Krishan Gadru - **Husband**  
Sh. Rahul and Sheetal Gadru - **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Sh. Chinku - **Son**

Samast Bamzai, Kaul, Jalali, Chaku, Raina, Ganju, Punjabi, Koul, Bakshi Parivar

Contact: 9899205389, 9310640289, 006581821716



Smt. Bimla Gadru

**10TH DAY/11TH DAY/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you about the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Swadesh Trikha** (Retired from Information Deptt) Expired on 6/10/2024.

**10th Day** shall be performed on 15/10/2024 at Rani Park (Tottiyian) 10.00 am to 11.00 am.

**11th Day Kriya** shall be performed at our residence 245 Jullakha Mohalla, Jain Bazar at 12.00 Noon on 16/10/2024.

**Uthala Ceremony** will be held on 18/10/2024 at Hari Mandir, Rehari between 3.00 to 4.00 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Kiran Shama (Wife)  
Sh. Mukesh Trikha (PHE Deptt) (Son)  
Sh. Rakesh Trikha & Smt. Monika Sharma (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Sh. Vikas Trikha (Son)  
Sh. Nitish Trikha & Smt. Anika Sharma (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
**Grand Childrens :** Priyanshi, Bhavya & Samarth  
Contact No.: 9419656839, 8005369020, 9086237641, 7006316958



Late Sh. Swadesh Trikha  
(DOB 20/9/1948-Exp on 6/10/2024)

**OBITUARY**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW  
WE INFORM YOU OF THE TRAGIC  
UNTIMELY DEMISE OF **MANYA DHAR MASCARENO** D/O LATE RAVINDRA K DHAR AND SHEELA SAFAYA ON 08TH OF OCTOBER 2024 IN NEW YORK (USA).

**IN GRIEF**

SHEELA SAFAYA

(CELL NUMBER- +91-9999027572)

MANEESH DHAR (**BROTHER**)

SIMMI BHAT (**SISTER-IN-LAW**)

**AND ALL FRIENDS & FAMILY .**



Manya Dhar Mascareno

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief we regret to inform you that our mother **Smt. Veena Devi Ji** (W/o Late Sh. Prithvi Raj) left for her heavenly abode on 08th Oct 2024.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held on Wednesday, 16 Oct 2024

11.00 A.M at our Residence Ward No. 67, Lane No. 3, Laxmi Nagar (Near Shiv Temple) Muthi, Jammu.

**Fondly Remembered By**

Smt. Pooja Devi & Sh. Jogesh Dogra- **Daughter in Law & Son**  
Smt. Bandhna Kumari & Adv. Kulbhushar- **Daughter & Son in Law**  
(M) 9070000875, 6006430993, 9796628918



SMT. VEENA DEVI JI

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

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

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 16/10/2024 (Wednesday) at Ganga Ghat, Murad Nagar and Assembly at A-19, FM-182, Shalimar Garden Ext. 2, Ghazibad, UP at 11:00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Daughter's and Sons in law**  
Smt. Sarla Wali and Sh. B L Wali  
Smt. Pami Kandoo & Lt. Sh. Ramesh Chander Kandoo  
Smt. Anila Bazzaz W/o Lt. Sh. Raja Ji Bazzaz  
**Son and Daughter in law**  
Sh. Surjit Kaul (Buboo Ji) and Smt. Shanoo Kaul  
Sh. Rakesh Kaul (Raju Ji) and Smt. Neena Kaul  
**Childrens:** Rashi, Sethi, Jimmy, Deepak, Komal, Gopi, Rishab, Anshu, Chetan, Keasr  
Your memories will always remain in our hearts.  
Also remembered by Raina's, Kauls, Pandita's, Wall's, Kandoo's and Bazzaz's  
Contact: 981177275, 8178394476, 9891128616, 7780999622, 9419110582



Smt. Jagat Rani Kaul (Sheelaji)

**RASAM KRIYA**

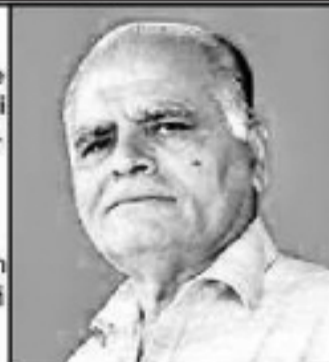
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Kewal Krishan Bali** (S/o Late Shri Shiv Prakash Bali) who left for his heavenly abode on Sunday 6th Oct. 2024.

**10th Day** on Tuesday, 15th Oct. 2024.

**Uthala and Kriya** on Wednesday, 16th Oct. 2024  
**Lunch Timing :** 1.00 to 3.00 pm and **Uthala Timing** from 3.00 to 4.00 pm at Ram Mandir Dhyansar Bari Brahmana, Near Sabzi Mandi.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Asha Bali (Wife)  
Ashish Bali & Kanika Sharma (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Sonia Bali Bakshi W/o Late Anar Bakshi (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Marya Bali, Cheshta & Niarsh (Grandson & Daughter)  
Bali & Bakshi Family.  
**Ph.: 7006652216, 9906080191**



Sh. Kewal Krishan Bali

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

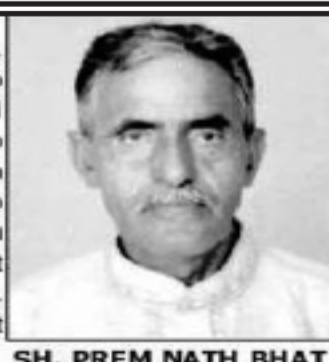
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our Karam Yogi Father **Sh. Prem Nath Bhat** S/o Shumboo Nath originally resident of Village Gugloosa Tehsil Trehgam, Kupwara at present TRT No 17, Block-G, Purkhoo Camp Domana Jammu who left us for heavenly abode on 13th Oct 2024. May Lord Grant peace to his divine soul.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 22nd of Oct 2024 (Tuesday at 8.30 AM)

**Assembly** will be held at Community Hall Purkhoo Camp.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt & Sh. Akshay Kumar Bhat -**Son & Daughter in Law**  
Smt & Sh. Ankur Pandita -**Son in Law & Daughter**  
Smt & Sh. Amit Hangloo -**Son in Law & Daughter**  
**MOBILE NO: 8803494690, 97976976566**



SH. PREM NATH BHAT

**CHOUBARSII**

Choubarsi of our beloved Late Smt. Neha Rani Datta W/o Late Sh. Sanjeev Datta (Pinto) Daba Wale who had expired on 31/10/2020, will be performed on 17/10/2024. **Aradhna of Shri. Ramayana Akhand Path** will be on 16/10/2024 at 9.00 am and **Bhog of the Path** will be on 17/10/2024 at 8.00 am on Thursday. After Bhog the **Choubarsi** will be performed at our residence H.No. 48/2, Shanti Puri, Lower Roop Nagar (Muthi) Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Varun & Tanvi Datta - Sons**  
Miss Sorali Datta - **Daughter**  
**Brother-in-laws & Sister-in-laws**  
Sh. Charan Lal Sharma  
Sh. Indrajit Sharma & Smt. Shama Rani  
Sh. Naresh Chander (Raj) & Smt. Shalunka Devi  
**Sister-in-laws & Brother-in-laws**  
Smt. Shakuntla Devi & Sh. Mohinder Kumar Bali  
Smt. Shama Rani & Sh. Kudeep Bakshi  
Smt. Pawan Babji  
**Mob. Nos. : 941914037, 9149491758**



Late Smt. Neha Rani Datta (Rani)

**SHADMOS AND MASWAR (NOBLE SOUL NEVER DIES)**

With profound grief and sorrow, we would like to inform that rituals for **Shadmos and Maswar** of our beloved Late **Smt Phoola Karwani (Saba Ji)** W/o Shiban Krishan Pandita will be performed on 16th Oct and 17th Oct 2024 respectively at her residence Sharika Vihar House/Door No. 40138 Sec-2 Lower Roop Nagar Jammu. **DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY**  
Smt. Somawati (Bangashi) Mother in law  
Sh. S K Pandita (Husband)  
(Daughter and Son-in-law)  
Priyanka and Navnoet Agnihotri  
(Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law)  
Nimala and Avtar Krishan Koul  
Ashima Agnihotri - Grand Daughter



Late Smt Phoola Karwani (Saba Ji)

**10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you about the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Sneha Lata Sharma** W/o Lt. Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma. **10TH DAY** will be performed on 13/10/2024 (Sunday) at our residence, 333, Shastri Nagar at 11.00 AM.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 14/10/2024 (Monday) at our residence, at 12 Noon.  
**RASAM PAGRI & UTHALA** will be performed on 18/10/2024 (Friday) at Shree Ram Mandir, Near Nirankari Bhawan, Shastri Nagar at 5 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Prashant Goutam & Neelu Sharma (Son & Daughter in law)  
Divya Gautam W/o. Late Col. Vikas Gautam (Daughter in law)  
Suresh & Rajesh Dogra (Daughter and Son in law)  
Smt. Sanjida Dubey (Sister in Law)  
Smt. Sanam & Sh. V. D. Sharma (Sister in law & Brother in Law)  
Sanjay & Nandani Sharma (Nephew & Daughter in law)  
Sanjeev & Seema Sharma (Nephew & Daughter in law)  
Vincent & Ritu Goutam (Nephew & Daughter in law)  
Sahaj, Medha, Tanya, Maheer, Suhani, Iqbal (Grand Children)  
**And All Keri & Dogra Family**  
**Mobile : 9419195030, 9468389489, 9469001402**



SMT. SNEHA LATA SHARMA

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## Veerji Pandita congratulates Sham Lal for his Victory in North Jammu

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: Veerji Pandita congratulated Sham Lal Sharma for his victory in Jammu North Assembly Elections.

In a vibrant gathering that reflected the spirit of community unity, social worker Veerji Pandita, former General Secretary of PSMICT Martand Tirth, presented a bouquet to Sham Lal Sharma in recognition of his significant victory in the Jammu North assembly elections. The event, held alongside Advocate Aditya Pandita Vistark Jammu North assembly constituency marked a joyous celebration for the Kashmiri Pandit community and the broader electorate.

The venue was adorned

with colorful decorations, symbolizing the hope and aspirations of the constituents. Community members came together to honor Sharma's achievement, which was seen as a direct reflection of their collective efforts. As Veerji Pandita presented the bouquet, he expressed profound gratitude for Sharma's leadership and commitment to the community.

"Today, we are not just celebrating an election victory; we are celebrating the strength of our community," Pandita said, his voice filled with enthusiasm. "This achievement belongs to each and every one of us who stood together to support our cause."

Sham Lal Sharma, now

serving as MLA, accepted the bouquet with humility and gratitude. He took a moment to thank the Kashmiri Pandit Samaj for their unwavering support during his campaign.

"This victory is a testament to your trust and belief in our vision for Jammu North," Sharma stated. "I am honored to serve you and promise to work diligently for our shared goals."

Sharma's campaign resonated with voters as he focused on critical issues such as economic development, education, and infrastructure improvements.

He highlighted the importance of addressing the needs of the community and committed to being a voice for the

people in the legislative assembly.

Advocate Aditya Pandita joined Sharma on stage, emphasizing the power of community involvement.

"The unity of our Kashmiri Pandit Samaj has been instrumental in this victory," he said. "Together, we can ensure that our needs are prioritised and that we continue to move forward."

The celebration served as a reminder of the challenges faced during the election campaign.

Sharma engaged with constituents throughout the process, listening to their concerns and crafting solutions that resonated with the electorate. His focus on youth and women empowerment

played a significant role in galvanizing support, as he organized events aimed at fostering engagement and inclusivity.

As the evening unfolded, attendees shared their hopes for the future, discussing the need for improved healthcare, education, and job opportunities. The atmosphere buzzed with optimism as community members expressed their willingness to support Sharma in his initiatives.

In his closing remarks, Sham Lal Sharma reaffirmed his commitment to addressing the community's concerns. "I will advocate for policies that benefit all of us," he declared. "Together, we will build a future that reflects our aspirations."

## J&K UT Taekwondo Championship 2024-25 concludes

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: The J&K UT Taekwondo Championship 2024-25, organized by the Taekwondo Association of Jammu & Kashmir (TAJK), concluded today at the J&K Sports Council Hall in Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu. This prestigious event, conducted under the auspices of the J&K Olympic Association and India Taekwondo, attracted participants from nine districts, with over 150-170 athletes competing across various categories.

The championship was honored by the presence of several prominent figures. Chief Guest Shri Zorawar Singh Janwal, President of Team Jammu and National BJP Leader, delivered an inspiring address, urging athletes to uphold the spirit of sportsmanship and strive for excellence. Guest of Honour Vijay Kumar

Pandoh, Vice President of the Wrestling Association of Jammu & Kashmir, commended the participants and praised the organizing committee for their efforts in promoting sports. Other special guests included Ritika Slathia, Manager of the Indoor Sports Complex in Bhagwati Nagar, and Muzaffar Mir, DySP of J&K Police.

The organizing team, comprising dedicated members such as Quimti Lal Jain (General Secretary, TAJK), Tarsem Sharma (Working President, TAJK), Ravinder Sharma (Treasurer, TAJK), Ajaz Rasool Mir (Joint Secretary, TAJK), Danish Sharma (Executive Member, TAJK), and Deepak Dogra (Senior Martial Artist), worked tirelessly to ensure the championship's success.

The event provided a valuable platform for young

Taekwondo athletes to showcase their skills, with participants from various districts giving their best performances. Winners across different categories were announced, and medals were distributed, highlighting the immense talent present in the region.

In his address, Chief Guest Zorawar Singh Janwal emphasized the importance of perseverance, discipline, and hard work. He encouraged students to embrace the values taught through sports, noting that Taekwondo not only strengthens the body but also sharpens the mind and builds character.

The two-day championship was a resounding success, setting a positive tone for future sporting events in Jammu & Kashmir and reinforcing the growing popularity of Taekwondo among the youth.

## Ex-JURSEA President leads protest in JU seeking CBI probe in varsity recruitments



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: The scholars and students of Jammu University led by former Jammu University Research Scholars Executive Association (JURSEA) president, Dr Vikas Sharma held a protest on university campus demanding CBI probe to unearth the irregularities committed in the recruitment process during the tenure of incumbent Vice Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai.

The protesting students and scholars raised slogans against the Vice Chancellor and demanded from the Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha to immediately order inquiry and cancel the recruitment process for the administrative posts interview for which was held on October 4 and 5.

Addressing the protestors, Dr. Vikas Sharma reiterated his demand for CBI probe in the alleged recruitment scams in University of Jammu (JU) and held the Vice Chancellor and his coterie responsible for the mess

in the University.

He alleged that the eligibility criteria were tailor-made for the blue eyed candidates for Vice Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai during the recently held selection process for administrative posts.

Dr Sharma claimed that some of the candidates were not holding the eligibility for the administrative posts but, the Vice Chancellor made them eligible by using his influence and made the mockery of the selection process by twisting the eligibility conditions owing to which one of the selection committee members who was present online during the interview process has not validated the process.

"It is a vindication of the fact that the some of the candidates were not eligible for the posts but the Vice Chancellor was desperate to push his agenda.

He questioned that if the Vice Chancellor had to accommodate his blue-eyed then why he enacted the drama and wasted the time of selection committee and befooled the candidates from various parts

of country who applied for the posts.

"Lieutenant Governor has been making several statements on making J&K Corruption free and exposing various scams. But why is he silent on irregularities being committed in Jammu University? If he is really serious then he should immediately order the inquiry and cancel the recruitment process of administrative posts," former JURSEA President demanded.

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

Additionally, Dr. Sharma highlighted a violation of university norms, stating that certain candidates are directly involved in the recruitment process,

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

Dr. Sharma demanded that JU should make the names of screening committee member's public who made the ineligible candidates as eligible. "The candidates who are ineligible were made eligible by the screening committee members for the interview. And, it is a matter of investigation as to how they did so. Screening Committee members shall also be brought under the purview of inquiry," he stated.

Dr. Sharma demanded that the video of interview should be released forthwith so that all could know about the people who attended the interview, both internal as well as external candidates.

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

He further demanded that all the selections made by JU during the two and half year tenure of VC Umesh Rai as several allegations have been levelled by the candidates against the selections and LG Manoj Sinha should not waste time in ordering inquiry to unravel the frauds and restoring confidence of people in this institution.

## Dimple accuses BJP of being enemy of Dogra state

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: Sunil Dimple, president of Mission Statehood, has accused the BJP of being a significant enemy of the Dogra state in Jammu and Kashmir, alleging that the party seeks to further divide the region into Union Territories and separate Jammu from the rest of the state. He criticized BJP leaders, including Choudhary Zulfkar and Ravinder Raina, claiming their post-election defeat has driven them to advocate for such divisive measures.

Dimple demanded clar-



ity from the Prime Minister and Home Minister regarding the BJP's position on these leaders' statements about creating Union Territories in the Pir Panjal region and Chenab Valley. He emphasized that he and his party oppose the calls for a separate Jammu state

and any further division of the region.

He stated that such demands reflect a lack of respect for the legacy of Maharaja Hari Singh and the historical significance of the Dogra state. Dimple called for a CBI inquiry into a recent fire incident in Doda that destroyed

numerous homes and businesses, underscoring the ongoing struggles for local governance and stability.

Dimple reiterated his commitment to fighting for the restoration of Article 370, unification of regions like Ladakh and Gilgit-Baltistan, and the fulfillment of the Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh. He warned the government to initiate the Darbar Move or face significant public agitation, voicing the community's desire for progress, peace, and prosperity in the Jammu and Kashmir region.

## Dr. Kalam inspired millions with his powerful words, exemplary life: Sat Sharma

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir paid warm tributes to the former President of India, Bharat Ratna APJ Abdul Kalam on his birth anniversary and remembered his life and services to the nation and the society.

The tributes programme was organized by the Minority Morcha, J&K BJP led by its President Sardar Ranjodh Singh Nalwa at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

"Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the 'Missile Man of India,' inspired millions with his powerful words and exemplary life", said Sat Sharma, while paying tributes to the former President of India, Bharat Ratna APJ Abdul Kalam on his birth anniversary.

Sat Sharma, working President, J&K BJP accompanied by Balbir



Ram Rattan, former VC, Dr Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP, Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Additional Office Secretary, Santokh Singh, General Secretary, Minority Morcha, Jasmeet Kour & Harpal Singh Bali, Vice Presidents Minority Morcha, Sanjay Bakshi, and the whole team of BJP Minority Morcha paid tributes to the tall personality of Independent India.

"Born in 1931 on 15 October, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was a leading Indian aerospace scientist and a statesman. Served as the 11th President of India, he played a

leading role in the development of India's missile and nuclear weapons programs. Dr Kalam has inspired millions with his inspirational speeches and writings on education, youth empowerment, and spirituality. Due to his popularity among the masses especially the youth and his contribution to the Missile technology, he is also known as the "People's President" and the "Missile Man of India".

Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, paying his tributes to the great leader said that Dr Kalam was one of the few presidents who touched the hearts of millions of

people and left an indelible imprint on their minds. It is owing to this popularity he enjoyed among the masses that he came to be called the People's President.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra said that due to his professional excellence and contribution to the science programmes in India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1981, Padma Vibhushan in 1990, and Bharat Ratna in 1997. He was also a recipient of Honorary doctorates from many universities worldwide, said Dr Pardeep.

Balbir Ram Rattan, stressing his simplicity said that after having served his term as President, Dr Kalam returned to his work in education, writing, and public service. Dr. Kalam passed away while giving a lecture at the Indian Institute of Management Shillong, he added.

## Awareness-cum-registration programme organized by Veterinary Section JMC



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: An awareness-cum-registration programme was organized on Tuesday by Veterinary section of JMC for work animal owners operating within JMC limits.

The main motive of the programme was to aware the owners of Marriage buggies/ Horse cart/ horses/ Pony/ Mule/ Camel/ Donkey and other work animals regarding benefits of registration of their work animals in accordance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Draught and Pack Animal Rules, 1965 and J&K Municipal Corporation

Act, 2000.

Commissioner, JMC, Dr. Devansh Yadav, along with Deputy Director Research, AHD Jammu Dr. Rakesh Koul, MVO, JMC Dr. Jaswant Singh, Lab officers DDR Lab Dr. Abhimanyu Chauhan & Dr. Ashwani Bassan, VAS, JMC Dr. Divya Sharma were present in the programme.

Commissioner, JMC interacted with the stakeholders regarding importance of registration of their work animals with JMC and benefits as such. The team of Veterinary section appraised the stakeholders regarding importance of health & fitness status, duration

of their working hours, capacity of load on animals and various animal welfare issues of these work animals.

30 registration certificates were issued on-spot after RFID tagging & blood sample examination. Free vaccines for rabies and tetanus were provided to 50 number of animals.

Veterinary section of JMC is carrying out various drives within JMC limits to curtail the incidences of cruelty towards work animals as well as plying of these animals by their owners without obtaining proper licensing from Jammu Municipal Corporation.

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 Snow Clearance Machine Guru-I	<b>E-NIT No. MHDU/TS/ 51 of 2024-25</b> <b>Dt.:- 11/10/2024</b> <b>Due on:- 22/10/2024</b>	<b>0.91 (Lacs)</b>	<b>Earnest Money</b> 2% of estimated amount, amounting to Rs. 1820/- 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 Chalan 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 chalan/receipt on e-tendering portal OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in shape of e-chalan through Account No. 0028010200000000, J&K Bank Udhampur, of Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Udhampur	<b>10 (ten days days)</b>	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/1740**

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Executive Engineer  
Mechanical & Hospital Division  
Udhampur

Dated:- 1/10/2024  
DIP/J-5529/24

## EDITORIAL

## Indian Startups: A Booming Ecosystem

India's startup ecosystem has emerged as one of the most vibrant and dynamic globally, characterized by innovation, entrepreneurship, and significant investment. Over the past decade, India has transformed into a hub for startups, attracting both local and international investors. This evolution is marked by several key factors that have contributed to the rise of startups across various sectors.

According to the Economic Survey of India, the country is home to over 70,000 recognized startups, with more than 100 unicorns—startups valued at over \$1 billion. This growth trajectory is impressive, as it highlights the increasing entrepreneurial spirit among the youth. Cities like Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR, and Hyderabad have become major centers for startups, with vibrant ecosystems fostering innovation and collaboration.

The Indian government has played a crucial role in nurturing the startup ecosystem through various initiatives. The "Startup India" campaign, launched in 2016, aims to promote entrepreneurship by providing financial support, simplifying regulations, and offering mentorship. The government has set up several funds to provide seed capital and facilitate access to technology and infrastructure. These initiatives have significantly lowered the barriers to entry for budding entrepreneurs, encouraging them to turn their ideas into viable businesses.

Indian startups are not limited to technology; they span diverse sectors, including e-commerce, fintech, health tech, agritech, edtech, and more. E-commerce giants like Flipkart and Paytm have paved the way for numerous other startups in the digital space, while fintech companies such as Razorpay and PhonePe are revolutionizing financial services. The health tech sector has gained momentum, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, with startups focusing on telemedicine, digital health records, and wellness solutions.

The Indian startup ecosystem has witnessed a surge in investment from venture capitalists, private equity firms, and angel investors. In 2021, Indian startups raised over \$36 billion in funding, a significant increase from previous years. This influx of capital has enabled startups to scale rapidly, innovate, and compete on a global scale. Notably, global investors like Sequoia Capital, Tiger Global, and SoftBank have made substantial investments, further legitimizing the Indian startup landscape.

Despite the positive trajectory, Indian startups face several challenges. One of the primary hurdles is access to funding, particularly for early-stage startups. While there is a growing number of investors, many still prefer to invest in more mature companies, leaving early-stage startups to navigate a tough funding environment.

Additionally, regulatory hurdles can be a deterrent. Navigating the complex landscape of compliance and regulations can be daunting for new entrepreneurs, often requiring significant time and resources. However, ongoing government initiatives are gradually addressing these issues, aiming to create a more conducive environment for startups.

Another challenge is talent acquisition. While India boasts a large pool of skilled professionals, the demand for talent in the tech space often outstrips supply. Startups must compete with established companies for skilled workers, which can drive up hiring costs.

Technology is at the heart of many Indian startups. The rise of the digital economy has enabled entrepreneurs to leverage technology to create innovative solutions. From artificial intelligence and machine learning to blockchain and the Internet of Things (IoT), Indian startups are harnessing cutting-edge technologies to address various challenges and improve efficiencies.

Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digital transformation across sectors, leading to an increase in online services and e-commerce. Startups that adapted quickly to these changes thrived, showcasing the resilience and agility of the Indian entrepreneurial spirit.

Looking ahead, the future of Indian startups appears promising. The combination of a young population, increasing internet penetration, and a supportive government framework creates an ideal environment for entrepreneurship. Moreover, the shift towards sustainability and social impact is driving a new wave of startups focused on addressing pressing societal challenges.

Emerging sectors such as renewable energy, electric mobility, and sustainable agriculture are gaining traction, providing entrepreneurs with opportunities to create impactful solutions. Additionally, the global push for digitalization presents Indian startups with avenues to expand internationally.

In conclusion, India's startup ecosystem is thriving, fueled by innovation, investment, and a supportive environment. While challenges remain, the resilience and adaptability of Indian entrepreneurs position them well for future success. As the ecosystem continues to evolve, it promises to contribute significantly to the nation's economic growth and development, making India a key player on the global startup map.

## Modi's participation in recent QUAD Summit

By: Omkar Dattatray

Prime minister Narendra Modi's participation in QUAD meeting in New York has given further boost to the stature and status of India in the international community, besides giving many innovative suggestions to the grouping. Modi's three day visit to the US was marked by significant discussions on technology, economic growth and bilateral relations. From addressing the UNGA to engaging with CEOs, he emphasized India's potential as a global economic leader and the importance of international cooperation. PM Modi emplaned for New Delhi from New York after wrapping up his 'successful and substantial' three-day visit to the United States. Modi attended the Quad leaders meeting, an overwhelming Indian community event and addressed the 'Summit of the Future' at the UN General Assembly during his important trip. Modi also held bilateral meetings with his Japanese and Australian counterparts on the sidelines of the Quad Summit and exchanged views to deepen bilateral cooperation further for mutual benefits and the 'peace, stability, and prosperity' of the Indo-Pacific region. Modi arrived in the US on Friday and attended the Quad Leaders' meeting in Wilmington, Delaware on the first day. Hosted by President Joe Biden, the Quad Leaders' Summit was organized in his hometown Wilmington, Delaware. It was attended by Prime Minister Modi, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia, and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan. Biden also hosted Modi for a bilateral meeting in his home town. Biden welcomed the progress made towards India sealing procurement of 31 long-endurance MQ-98 armed drones from American defense major General Atomics, as he hand Prime Minister Modi vowed to boost reciprocal supply of military hardware between the two sides during the bilateral meeting. A very special feature of the bilateral meeting was the return of 297 antiquities to India, a few of which were on display at Biden's residence during the meeting. Modi also held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Australia and Japan on the sidelines of Quad Summit

.At the Quad Leadership Summit and others associated with it, PM Modi underlined India's approach of cooperation, contact, and engagement for growth with a variety of partners in the Indo-Pacific. Also, during the summit, the leaders announced the Quad Cancer Moonshot a groundbreaking partnership to save lives in the Indo-Pacific region. India pledged dollar 7.5 million to combat cervical cancer in the Indo-Pacific region. The Quad nations also announced a new regional Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific - MAITRI, to enable their partners in the region to maximize tools provided through Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness -IPMDA and other Quad partner initiatives to monitor and secure their waters, enforce their laws, and deter unlawful behavior. After wrapping up the Quad Leader's meeting in Wilmington, Modi left on Saturday for New York for a Day-2 to attend an Indian community event at Long Island and later addressed a key conclave at the UN on Day-3. Modi addressed a mega gathering of India-Americans at the Nassau Coliseum in New York. Terming India as a "land of opportunities," PM Modi told the gathering that he has set very ambitious goals for the country during his third term. During the event, he also announced that India will open two new consulates in Boston and Los Angeles, meeting the long-pending demand of the fast-growing Indian American community in these two large American cities. The event was attended by more than 13,000 Indian-Americans. PM Modi during his three-day US visit, attended the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or Quad Summit, which comprises India, the United States, Australia, and Japan - a grouping seen to contain China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region. US President Joe Biden hosted PM Modi, Australian PM Anthony Albanese, and Japanese PM Fumio Kishida at his Delaware hometown for a farewell summit on Saturday. India's participation in Saturday's sixth Quad Summit also aligns with New Delhi's "Act East" policy and PM Modi's efforts to forge deeper engagement with East Asian nations. At the summit PM Modi described the grouping as a "force of

Global Good." "The PM further described Quad as Quick Unified Assistance Delivery. "Without naming China, which with India has been engaged in a standoff along the line of actual control -LAC, PM Modi said Quad is not against anyone, but for a rules-based international order and respect for sovereignty. "Free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific is our priority," Modi said in his opening remarks. The PM said Quad is "here to stay," as many positive and inclusive initiatives have been taken in areas like health security, technology, and climate change. "Our message is clear - Quad is here to stay, to assist, to partner and to complement. Together we have taken many positive and inclusive initiatives in areas like health security, critical and emerging technologies, climate change, capacity building," PM said. PM Modi announced 7.5 million US dollars worth of support for sampling and detection kits and vaccines to fight cervical cancer as part India's vision of "One Earth One Health." "India is ready to share its experience with the Quad members. Together we have taken many positive and inclusive initiatives in areas like health security, critical and emerging technologies, climate change, capacity building," Modi said. PM Modi announced 7.5 million US dollars worth of support for sampling and detection kits and vaccines to fight cervical cancer as part of India's vision of "One Earth One Health." "India is ready to share its experience and expertise. Today, many experts from India working in cancer care have joined us in this event. India's vision is One Earth One Health. I announce the support of sampling kits, detection kits and vaccines worth USD 7.5 million," PM. India will be offering technical assistance and capacity building on DPI in cancer care to interested countries from the Indo-Pacific region through its commitment of dollar 10 million to the WHO's Global Initiative on Digital Health. India will invest dollar 2 million in setting up new solar projects in Fiji, Comoros, Madagascar, and Seychelles

.India announced a new category of scholarships for students of the Indo-Pacific region which would enable them to pursue a 4-year bachelor's level engineering programme at a government of India funded technical institute. As part of Quad's activities in the space domain, India is setting up a space-based web portal for Mauritius to assist in monitoring of extreme weather events and climate impact. A commitment from the Serum Institute of India, in partnership with Gavi and the Quad, to support orders of up to 40 million HPV vaccine doses for the Indo-Pacific region. Moreover, in the area of sustainable and resilient port infrastructure, India will be hosting a capacity building workshop with the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure -CDRI. In the four-corner meeting, the members agreed to harness the Quad's collective expertise to support sustainable and resilient port infrastructure development across the Indo-Pacific. Under the initiative, the Quad partners will share practices to ensure that our ports are able to maintain an acceptable level of service and infrastructure to ships, cargoes, and other customers in the face of disruptions like e.g. pandemics, natural disasters and cyber or terrorist attacks, this varies with port size, location and type of operations. In the meeting, the first-ever "Quad-at-sea-Ship Observer Mission" for 2025 was announced to "improve interoperability and advance maritime safety between our Coast Guards across the Indo-Pacific." The Quad Indo-Pacific Logistics Network pilot project will be rolled out to pursue shared airlift capacity among our nations and leverage our collective logistics strengths, in order to support civilian response to natural disasters more rapidly and effectively across the Indo-Pacific region. To conclude we can say that PM Modi's trip to US & his engagements at Quad summit passed on successfully and it added a feather in the crown of not only Modi but of India too.

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

## Market dependent on festive sale

By: Vijay Garg

Garba Dandiya, Navratri, Ramleela, Dussehra, Diwali - this is the season of celebration in different styles in different parts of the country. Not only this, this is just a trailer, because then the entire time from Diwali till Christmas and New Year is called festive season. It is a tradition that most of the festivals of India are related to the harvest in some way or the other, that is, this celebration is not only in the cities, but also in the villages or in the whole of India. The matter is not limited to just family. When you get into the festive mood, you start preparing and shopping too. That is why everyone from the shopkeepers around you to the big companies of the country and the world wait for this season. The current year is special because despite rapid economic growth over the past several years, the question remains as to when demand will return to the Indian markets. Those who calculate the entire pot from one rice have already got a sample. At the end of September, giants like Amazon, Flipkart and other platforms organized huge sales. big billion dThe Great Indian Festival started from September 27, but it was opened a day earlier for the members of loyalty programs like Prime and Plus. Figures have come that in a week online retail companies sold goods worth Rs 55 thousand crore or about six and a half billion dollars. This is 26 percent more than the same sale last year, but the big thing is

that this year, more than half of the total sales estimated by experts in the festive season had already been sold before Dussehra. sales math integratorMarket research agencies had estimated that there would be sales of about \$ 12 billion in this festive season, which is about 30 percent more than last year. But in the very first week the pace of sales exceeded expectations. The majority of online sales have been spent on mobile phones, electronics and fashion. However, the news within the same week is that after the initial surge, sales started cooling down by the end of the week. Market researchers and people engaged in this business also believe that these sales operate in the same manner. ShurIn India, expensive things are sold out quickly and after that people start looking for cheaper things. Despite this, there is a wave of enthusiasm due to the speed at which the sale took place." Improving the environment in the consumer market is necessary for many reasons, because before this many signs of worry and stress have come or are standing ahead. In September, the GST collection figure increased by only 6.5 percent, whereas earlier it was showing a growth of above 10 percent. Industrial production also started showing weakness and the Purchasing Managers Index was at its lowest in eight months. Has reached. This index is prepared by conducting a survey among purchasing managers in big companies. Their deteriorating mood means that companies are making less purchases. This

will happen only when their goods are not being sold in the market or they are not getting new orders. Similarly, there is news of falling sales in the car market for three consecutive months. That too, when various offers of discounts and gifts on cars are appearing in newspapers every day. The situation is worrying, that is why now the hopes of economists are based on two things. The effect of monsoon means good harvest and the pockets of the common man are expected to increase in shopping in the market. The first expectation seems to be fulfilled from the Kharif sowing figures. Till September 27, there were reports of sowing of crops in more than 11 lakh hectares of area. This is better sowing than normal. However, there are reports of crop damage due to abnormal rains in some parts of the country and mere sowing is not a guarantee of a good crop. But here the story is more about shopping than farming. A good harvest also means that in villages orSales will increase in the markets around them or people will go out for shopping. Now the hopes of the country and the world rest on this. The World Bank has increased the growth forecast for the entire South Asia and the main basis of its expectation is the increase in domestic demand in India. But another challenge also stands in front. Due to online shopping, the business of shops, especially small shopkeepers in things like fashion and electronics, is in great trouble. Big stores built in malls try to attract customers by running big sales. are there, but the

smaller ones are in trouble. On the other hand, it is very difficult for the customers to differentiate between genuine and fake sales. Every year or two, an enterprising reporter goes to a big chain, takes photographs and reports with proof as to how these people are raising prices and setting up fake sales. Many times you can see what the real price was by removing the price sticker yourself. Apart from this, another big place for shopping during the festive season is bullion market or jewelery stores. Hobby, good omen and investment at the same time-Too. The market of gold, silver and jewelery also shines in this season. The reason is also that the wedding season also arrives at this time. At present the price of gold is skyrocketing, this may be a matter of concern. But many people are also seeing that in the last two-three years, people who have invested money in gold have got better profits compared to other investments. Then a large part of this business is also done by buying new jewelery in exchange of old jewelery, on which the price has no significant impact. That means there is something to worry about in the picture. There are definite lines, but there is also hope that the festivals will bring happiness not only in our families, but also in the economy of the country.

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

## GDC R S Pura organizes awareness lecture

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: An awareness lecture on "My Menstruation My Pride" was organized by Women Development Cell, Department of English and NSS unit of GDC R S Pura under the patronage of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour and supervision of Dr. Neena Gupta Rohmetra, Head department of English and Convenor Women Development Cell. Promoting menstrual hygiene is vital for physical health, mental well-being, and gender equality. Understanding menstruation, its biological process, and hygiene practice helps reduce stigma and promotes better health outcomes.



Menstrual hygiene refers to the practices and products that individuals use to manage menstruation in a safe, healthy, and dignified way. It includes maintaining cleanliness during menstruation, using appropriate menstrual products, and understanding reproductive health. The event was organized under CSR initiative "My Menstruation

My Pride". CSR has been undertaking menstrual hygiene among school & college girls covering almost 2000+ schools & colleges and 1,00,000 beneficiaries at pan India level. The resource person for the session was Harshita Upadhyay, an accomplished educator and an active member of NGO (Global Hunt) where she is deeply

committed to promoting menstrual health and hygiene awareness. She had conducted informative sessions on this crucial topic empowering students with essential knowledge and breaking down societal taboos surrounding menstruation.

The session started with the welcome note by Dr. Savleen Kour (Department of Veterinary Technology).

The session entails a comprehensive understanding on the what, why and how of menstruation comprising of meaning of menstruation, develop a biological understanding, talk on related social taboos and aware them on hygiene practices to be maintained during menstruation. More than 40 female students

actively participated with full enthusiasm.

Other faculty members present in this session were Prof. Shifali Abrol, Prof Radhika Mahajan, Dr Savtantar kour, Dr. Raj Jamwal, Dr. Kiran Pathania, Dr. Shivani Manchanda, Prof. Harpreet Kour, Dr. Neelam Kumari, Prof. Meeshu Pandita and Prof Jai Mala Thakur. Principal of the college appreciated the efforts of organizing committee and also advised the students to follow the guidelines practically in their lives in order to become healthy in every aspect. The session was concluded with a formal vote of thanks given by Prof Harpreet Kour, Assistant Professor in Department of English.

## Commerce College wins inter-collegiate TT men, women tournament 2024-2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: In the Inter-Collegiate Table Tennis tournament for men and women organized by Cluster University of Jammu at GCOE Jammu on October 14, 2024, the teams of Govt SPMR College of Commerce brought laurels to the institution by winning the tournament for 2024-2025.

The teams comprised Abhijeet Bhardwaj, Tejaswar Singh, Shivam Gupta, Parth Gupta, Simranjeet Singh, Anvi Gupta, Riya Gupta, Aena Gupta, Anjali Sharma, and Mehak Raina. They received a celebratory and rousing



reception at the college from the principal, staff, and students.

The Principal, Prof. Rajinder Singh, Convener of Sports Prof. Pawan Gupta, and Dr. Chetna Gupta congratulated both teams for their outstanding performance.

Principal of the College appreciated the efforts of Physical Director for his guidance and hard work of the players.

## FES Dept urges caution amid rising fire incidents in J&K, 'Warns of greater risk in coming winter months'

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 15: With the growing number of fire incidents in Jammu and Kashmir during the current dry season, compounded by the approach of winter, the Fire and Emergency Department on Tuesday urged residents to take all necessary precautions to prevent fire outbreaks.

Several fire incidents have been reported across Jammu and Kashmir in this month, raising concerns about public safety, especially in rural and remote areas where homes are often constructed with fire-vulnerable materials such as wood.

The dry weather conditions from October onward significantly increase the risk of fires, making vigilance and preparedness essential.

"It's up to individuals to ensure they follow the safety measures," Aqib Ahmad, Deputy Director of Fire and Emergency Services for Srinagar and Ganderbal said.

"As the dry season begins, it becomes crucial to follow the do's and don'ts to prevent fire incidents. Structures in this region are particularly vulnerable because of the widespread use of wood in construction, which is highly susceptible to catching fire."

Aqib further explained that fire protection measures are often overlooked during the design and construction phases in Kashmir.

"We recommend that people avoid using flammable materials like wood, or at least integrate fire-safety designs

into their homes. The lack of such measures often results in widespread damage when fires occur. Having basic fire extinguishers and other safety equipment can make a significant difference in controlling small fires before they become unmanageable."

He also highlighted the common causes of fire during these months, including LPG leaks and electrical short circuits, both of which are prevalent due to the increased use of heating devices as winter approaches.

"As people rely more on heating gadgets during winter, they need to ensure proper usage and maintenance. Faulty gadgets and overloaded circuits are major contributors to fire incidents," Aqib noted.

The department's advisory also included a list of do's and don'ts, stressing simple but effective preventive measures. These include avoiding the overloading of electrical circuits, ensuring regular maintenance of LPG connections, keeping fire extinguishers or sand buckets handy, and being cautious with heating appliances.

The dry weather and low moisture content in forests during these months also elevate the risk of forest fires, which can quickly spread and cause extensive damage to both property and life. Residents living in forest-adjacent areas were urged to exercise particular caution.

"Forest fires are a real threat in these months due to the low moisture content. One small spark can quickly lead to large-

scale destruction, so it is vital to take all necessary precautions," he emphasized.

The advisory comes as a crucial reminder for the public to remain vigilant and prepared as winter nears. "We can't take fire safety for granted," Aqib concluded. "By taking simple precautions and following safety guidelines, many of these incidents can be avoided."

The department has also assured the public that they are on high alert and ready to respond to any emergencies. However, it remains imperative for individuals to do their part in minimizing risks.

Arif Ahmad, In-charge Deputy Director of Baramulla and Kupwara, has advised the public to use electrical appliances with caution.

He emphasized the importance of not leaving these appliances unattended and urged residents to purchase high-quality electrical items.

He said that people should follow the guidelines issued by relevant authorities to ensure safety.

Avoid using faulty or outdated heating gadgets. Ensure LPG cylinders and connections are well-maintained and free of leaks. Install basic fire extinguishers in homes and public buildings. Avoid overloading electrical circuits, particularly with high-power devices. Be cautious with open flames, especially near wooden structures. Ensure proper ventilation when using heating devices indoors.

## DLL organizes workshop at GDC Sidhra

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: Taking forward the vision of the Dynamic Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai to enhance employability skills of the youth, to build competencies and to enable them to become job seekers instead of job seekers, Employment Information cum Advisory Bureau, Department of Lifelong Learning, University of Jammu organized a workshop on Self employment/ Entrepreneurship skill development and communication skills at Govt. Degree College, Sidhra. The one day workshop was jointly inaugurated by Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Director, Department of Lifelong Learning, University of



Jammu and Prof. G.S. Rakwal, Principal of the college.

Prof. G.S. Rakwal, Principal of the college in his welcome address expressed the dire need for skill development programmes for the students as it helps to build a strong foundation for students at the college level. He further added that it not only helps students to become independent thinkers but also encourages them

to plan for their future. He also explained the importance of being self employed. He also appreciated the efforts of Department of Lifelong Learning to organise such workshop for their students.

Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Director DLL, in her address, stressed on the need and importance of self employment. She also informed the students that communication skills will make them

more proficient and confident.

She highlighted that good communication skills are necessary in today's world. This critical life skill is important not only for career readiness but also for education and socialization. She also apprised the students about changing global trends in employment and the preparedness of the youth in this context.

The special resource person of the workshop was Zahid Ali Dar, Incharge CIIBM, Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Jammu who apprised the students about start-ups and entrepreneurship for the students.

The second resource

person was Neetu Dhar, Chief Coordinator and Master Trainer JKDCUL [Jammu Kashmir Dairy Producers Processors and Marketing Cooperative Ltd.], Jammu. She detailed the students about body language and postures in communication skills. She also involved the students in various activities for enhancing their communication skills. Dr. Rewa Khajuria coordinated the workshop and highlighted the workshop objectives.

Around 62 students attended for the workshop. Dr. Anu Sharma, Coordinator, Career Counselling Cell of the college conducted the proceedings of the programme and formal vote of thanks was given by Prof. Nisha.

## Don't neglect spinal health: Dr. Gaurav Sharma

Top News Report

BATHINDA, Oct 15: "The spine plays a critical role in our daily lives, allowing us to walk, sit, and perform a myriad of movements. It not only provides structural support but also houses the central nervous system, which regulates every bodily function,"

Speaking on the eve of World Spine Day, Dr. Gaurav Sharma, neurosurgeon at Max Hospital Bathinda said that when spinal health is neglected, it can lead to a range of serious conditions, such as herniated discs, spinal stenosis, and degenerative disc

disease.

He further said that chronic back pain, sciatica, and even nerve damage are common consequences of these issues. If left untreated, these conditions can affect mobility, and overall quality of life, and in some cases, require surgical intervention, he informed.

Dr Gaurav further informed that your spine is the pillar that supports your entire body, yet it's often overlooked in daily life.

Small steps today can prevent major problems tomorrow and keep your back in action for years to come, he opined.

## CUJ hosts visit from Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra GDC Samba



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: The Central University of Jammu (CUJ) welcomed students from Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College, Samba, on October 15, 2024. The visit involved 36 students from the B.Sc. Physics Department, accompanied by faculty members Dr. Renu Rajput, Dr. Sheetal Sharma, and Dr. Asha Sharma.

The group explored the Central Instrumentation Facility at the Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences (SDCSS), under the mentorship of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

The primary aim of the visit was to expose students to Space Science research and provide hands-on experience with advanced material characterization techniques. During the visit, students

received practical introductions to high-end characterization equipment and learned about their various applications in research.

Prof. Vinay Kumar, Convener of SDCSS, and Prof. Suram Singh from the Department of Physics, along with their dedicated team members Mehak Mahajan (STA, CIF), Ayesha, and Bandhna, provided valuable insights and guidance throughout the session.

## GGM Science College organizes workshop on "Virtual Labs"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: Virtual Lab Nodal Centre (VLNC) -205, which was established by IIT Bombay in Govt. Gandhi Memorial Science College Jammu, J&K UT, organized a workshop on "Virtual Labs in Biotechnology" in which a large number of students and faculty members participated. Workshop was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Prof. Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal, GGM Science College Jammu in presence of Dr. Ashaq Hussain, and Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Nodal Coordinator VLNC, Dr. Arun Sharma, Outreach Coordinator VLNC & Prof. Kiran Bala, HOD Biotechnology, Dr. Rohit, Assistant Professor Zoology and Prof. Richa Sharma.

Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of the College lauded the efforts of virtual lab team for orga-



nizing one day workshop for the students and faculty of the College.

In his deliberations, he encouraged all science teachers as well as students to use the virtual labs as add on to the physical labs.

Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Associate Professor in Chemistry & Nodal Coordinator, VLNC GGM Science College in his inaugural talk gave a detail of various features, objectives and advantages of Virtual Labs, which is a mission project developed under the aegis of National Mis-

sion on Education through ICT, MHRD. He said that with the rapid growth of information and communication technologies (ICT), virtual laboratories are becoming an integral part of science and technical curriculum.

The technical session which included demonstration and hands on session of simulation based experiments in Biotechnology was conducted by Dr. Neha Mahajan, Asstt Professor in Biotechnology.

She explained to the students simulation based experiments on the topic

"Agarose Gel Electrophoresis" developed by Amrita Virtual Lab through virtual mode very efficiently.

The second technical session in the discipline of Biotechnology was conducted by Prof. Gourav Gupta, Departmental Coordinator and Assistant Professor in Biotechnology. In his deliberations, he explained simulation based experiments on the topic Cell Count by Hemocytometer.

The proceedings of the event were nicely conducted by Prof. Nancy Gupta. The workshop ended with an impressive vote of thanks by Dr. Arun Sharma, Assistant Professor in Physics.

Among others who were present on the occasion include, Dr. Vandana Khajuria, Prof. Lekh Raj, Prof. Indeevar Chanyal, Prof. P.S. Manhas and Prof. M.S Saini.

## Samvedna Society organizes health check-up camp at Muskan Home

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: Samvedna Society Chairman Keshav Chopra organized 87th Free Eye Screening/General Health and Dental Check Up Camp at Muskan Home For Mentally Challenged Children's Channi Rama.

The camp was inaugurated by Deputy Inspector General of Police Jammu Samba Kathua Range Shiv Kumar Sharma.

A medical team of experts including Dr Sakshi Sahni M.S Eye Surgeon from K.D Hospital Jammu along with her team, Dr Rohit Gupta Dental Surgeon, Dr Neeraj Tekkar Physician examined the children's and medicines were also provided free of cost.

DIG Shiv Kumar Sharma mentioned the



importance of regular check-up camps and Lauded the efforts of the Samvedna team for organizing Free Health Check Up Camp for the Children of Muskan Home and said that how this noble initiative is contributing to the betterment of mankind.

Keshav Chopra said that this camp was planned exclusively to

benefit the children's of Muskan Home and also to foster a culture that is devoted to the serving of common man.

We will continue to organize such camps in future also so that maximum people can take advantage of it Keshav further added.

Station House Officer Trikuta Nagar Inspector Rajesh jasrotia, Bansi

Lal Bhagat (Administrator of Muskan Home), Shashank Rawal (Field Officer Red Cross), Reeta Rani (Staff Nurse), Sheetal Bhagat (Educator), Rajni Devi (Warden), Anju, Sushil Gupta, Sourav Gupta, Manoj Tandon, Vikas Kumar, Divyansh Gupta and others were also present during the camp.

## At the poster launch of Punjabi film Madhaniyan, as a bevy of stars came together, each had a story to narrate

Actor, director, writer and former pilot Nav Bajwa sure has a knack for stories. The man who gave Punjabi cinema one of the very first science fiction films, Raduaa, gathered a score of cast members for the poster launch of his upcoming film Madhaniyan, in Mohali. The film has a fresh lead pair, Neeru Bajwa and Dev Kharoud. They are joined by Gurpreet Ghuggi, Poonam Dhillon, BN Sharma, Sara Gural, Mannat Noor, Didar Gill, Rupinder Rup, Paramveer Singh, Prabhsharan Singh and Gurjeet Bajwa, among others.

The leading lady of the industry, Neeru Bajwa, looked every inch glamorous, dressed in black. "Such a stellar star cast, hats off to Nav for making this happen. While I was happy to hear about the story that celebrates bonds, I am happier to pair with Dev," she said. Turning it into a mutual admiration club, Dev spoke, "In these years in the industry, I have seen her after hero work with Neeru ji. I have been patiently waiting for my turn."

Veteran actor Gurpreet Ghuggi plays the jija of the groom. "We have all grown up listening to Madhaniyan — Hai O Mere Dadeya Rabba, Kihna Jammiyaan, Kihna Ne Le Jaaneyaan,



Hayee...It's in the happiness of the girl that the hearts of the two families beat," he said. He is happy that this film explores Punjabi roots, "Our industry has come a long way. Punjabi film industry today is giving Rs 100-crore movies. Now is the time we hit further milestones, so we need the audiences to support us in this bid." Nav, who met Dev while gymming in Patiala, added, "Call it a manifestation, I play younger brother to Neeru ji in this film."

Playing nani to this onscreen brother-sister duo is the iconic Poonam Dhillon. Essaying a chilled out granny from Canada, she said, "Chandigarh is my hometown and I am always happy being back here. It's due to Nav Bajwa's dedication that

such a stellar cast has come together. His energy and love for cinema is infectious."

While Neeru essays a successful girl from Chandigarh, the groom-to-be is from Bhatinda. "Increasingly, we are losing all relations — taya, tayi, chacha, chachi, masi, masad — as single-child is fast becoming the norm. But in our film we bring all these relations together and weave a beautiful family saga," offered Nav.

His ambitious sequel to Raduaa — Raduaa Returns is due for a year-end release. "It took me three-and-a-half years to make it. The VFX and CGI is so high and took long hours. It's going to be a visual treat for our viewers," he shared. Laung Laachi-fame Mannat Noor will

act in Madhaniyan too and she will also be seen in Raduaa Returns. "She plays the first AI voice in our sequel," Nav shared.

Madhaniyan aims at a 2025 release.

Amongst the scores of stars, it was Gurjeet Bajwa who stole the limelight! The retired Air Force personnel, got a new lease of life in films. Immensely proud of his son, Nav, the senior Bajwa shared how he insisted on his son being first a pilot before exploring his passion for acting. "Nav would close doors and practice dialogues, but I was insistent on him flying a fighter plane." The duo agreed on civil aviation before Nav explored films. "I was very happy to see Nav on the big screen in 2012 in Pure Punjabi. Acting is very tough job, jahaj udana saukha hai ji," he said. With a theatre background, during Covid he had a chance to act in Nav's film Teri Meri Nahi Nibhni. "Nav took three auditions before assigning me the role. I did well as the judge and enjoyed it to hilt." Gurjeet returns as an actor in Raduaa Returns, while he has also been a part of ZEE5 web series Weekends. "All us senior citizens should love and enjoy life after retirement."

## Dia Mirza appointed as jury for ALT Environmental Film Festival 2024



Bollywood actress and environmental activist Dia Mirza has been appointed as a jury member for the 2024

edition of the All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (ALT EFF). The festival, running from November 22 to

December 8, will showcase 72 films, including 38 India premieres, highlighting critical environmental issues such as climate change and wildlife conservation.

Mirza expressed her enthusiasm for the role, stating, "I am honoured to be part of ALT EFF, a festival that is not just about films but about building a dialogue around sustainability and the future of our planet."

This year's festival aims to extend its impact beyond traditional venues, with screenings in 55 small towns and villages across India, alongside 45 screenings in 14 major cities.

Festival Director Kunal Khanna highlighted the significance of these efforts, saying, "It's crucial to engage communities beyond metro cities in these discussions, and cinema has the power to connect people from different walks of life."

## Shraddha Kapoor says she had a breakdown on the set of her debut film Teen Patti

Shraddha Kapoor is basking in the success of her last release Stree 2. In a new interview with agency, the actor revealed how she had a difficult time in the initial days of her career when she had just bagged her first-ever acting role in Teen Patti. She shared that she had a breakdown on the second or third day of shooting, where she felt like she 'didn't understand this world'.

During the interview, Shraddha said how it was not very pleasant when she landed on set to shoot her first film. She shared, "I remember on the second or third day, I had a breakdown and told my mom I didn't want to go back, and I didn't understand this world since I had never AD'ed on a film set and was just 20 or 21. People were not always very nice cause if you were a 'somebody', you would be suddenly spoken to in a different way, and if you were a nobody, you would be treated like that. I could see all this and felt sad about it. My first film felt far more challenging than my second, where I was more confident and realised that if someone doesn't know something and is a little lost, you have to be kind to them."



More details

In Teen Patti, Shraddha played the character of a college student named Aparna Khanna. It tanked at the box office. Shraddha shot to fame with the romantic musical Aashiqui 2, which released in 2013. Fans saw Shraddha in Stree 2, the horror-

comedy which recently made cinematic history by becoming the highest-grossing Hindi film in India, surpassing the lifetime collections of Shah Rukh Khan's Jawan. It also stars Rajkumar Rao, Aparshakti Khurana, Abhishek Banerjee and Pankaj Tripathi.

## Celebs rock the ramp in their own distinctive styles at the grand finale of Lakme Fashion Week X FDCI 2024

Sushmita dazzles in saree

Sushmita Sen stole the limelight at Lakme Fashion Week X FDCI 2024, gracing the runway as the showstopper for designer Rashi Kapoor. Walking for Rashi Kapoor's debut collection, titled Espiritu Libre, which translates to free spirit, Sushmita exuded grace as she showcased the designer's vision inspired by the bold and vibrant Frida Kahlo. Sushmita shared, "You know what is really special is that I had no idea when she asked me to be her muse for the show... I said how many LFWs you have done, she said it is my very first one...and the young designer has killed it..."

Soha talks of fitness

Soha Ali Khan dazzled in a lovely traditional outfit as she turned showstopper for designer Simmi Saboo. She wore a golden lehenga and a blouse with golden embroidery and silver motifs. The collection 'Zooni' was a grand fashion merger of timeless Indian crafts and artistry, inspired by Kashmir. Soha talked about her fitness mantra, "My current fitness mantra is strength training because I am in my 40s now and need to keep fit."

Karisma oozes sophistication



Karisma Kapoor graced the runway as the showstopper for designer duo Ritika and Prerna, showcasing their debut collection under the label Urmil. Karisma captivated the audience as she strutted down the ramp in an enchanting ethnic outfit that perfectly encapsulated the spirit of the festive season.

She looked ethereal in a light green sleeveless blouse, adorned with intricate beaded embroidery and playful tassel detailing. The asymmetrical hemline and delicate bow cascading from her shoulder added a touch of drama, beautifully complementing her matching flared skirt, embellished with floral sequin embroidery and

frill accents. Accessorising her look with multiple stacked silver bracelets, a statement ring and elegant silver strappy heels, Karisma exuded sophistication.

Karisma noted, "I would describe this outfit as soft and fierce, maybe something like me. I like to wear what I am comfortable in. This outfit that I am wear-

ing is a standout piece. Today's women are bold and fierce, yet soft, and this is something that epitomises everyone."

Shraddha stuns in lehenga

Shraddha Kapoor too captivated audiences as she took to the runway in style. She turned muse for Kalki in a pastel pink colour lehenga set adorned with intricate heavy embroidery. Shraddha, undoubtedly, oozed oomph in the beautiful ethnic ensemble. For the glam, she chose for bold make-up and styled her hair in soft loose curls. She opted for minimum statement jewellery to slay the look. Talking about Kalki's collection, Mushk is inspired by the irresistible scent of gardenia musk.

Ananya shines

Ananya Panday turned showstopper for ace designer Rohit Bal. She looked beautiful in a black lehenga with huge red roses, a bralette blouse, and a cape-style blazer. Her makeup and jewellery added to her glamorous look. Bal's collection Kaaynaat: A Bloom in the Universe was a celebration of the beauty of nature and the delicacy of flowers.

Sangeeta Bijlani looked gorgeous in a red sari as she graced the ramp for designer Sanjukta Dutta.

## James Cameron told me 'Shikara' reminded him of 'Doctor Zhivago': Vidhu Vinod Chopra

Filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra's 'Shikara' may not have been a box office success but it managed to strike a chord with Oscar-winning director James Cameron who was reminded of his favourite film 'Doctor Zhivago' when he saw the Hindi movie.

The '12th Fail' director was speaking at a session on the day one of IFP Season 14, where he recalled bonding with the 'Avatar' filmmaker over a glass of wine. 'Shikara' followed the

love story of a Kashmiri couple against the backdrop of the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in the 1990s.

Chopra said his team asked him if he had read about the reaction to the 2020 film on social media but he was focused on his next project.

"I didn't see the failure because when James Cameron saw the film in New Zealand, he walked up to me and said, 'This film reminds me of my favourite film in the world, 'Doctor Zhivago,'"

he said, referring to the 1965 love story set in war-struck Russia.

Cameron isn't much of a drinker but he and Chopra sat in a cinema hall for a drink.

"Three bottles of wine were arranged for us. He was in the middle of shooting 'Avatar' (sequel) and we drank till early hours of morning. That for me is success. Your success or failure comes from you.

You need to do your best, if your best is not good enough, don't worry, do it again,"



Chopra said on Saturday.

The filmmaker said he plans to re-release 'Shikara' next year with its original title 'Love Letter from Kashmir'.

Chopra, also known for directing films such as 'Parinda', '1942: A Love Story', and 'Mission Kashmir', said even though his debut home production 'Munna Bhai MBBS' (2003) was a box office failure, he believed in director Rajkumar Hirani's vision.

"When 'Munna Bhai MBBS' released, it

flopped on day one, no one went to see it." He wanted to sell it to a south India-based distributor who promised to give Rs 11 lakh for the film.

After watching the film, he said, 'Munna Bhai MBBS' won't work beyond Mumbai's suburban area Borivali and the deal fell through.

"We managed to get one morning show in a theatre in Tamil Nadu where the film did a business of over Rs 1 crore," the filmmaker recalled.

When Hirani met him

a day after the film released, Chopra said he gave him Rs 11,000.

"But he said, 'I won't take it because the film is a flop'. I told him, 'I'm paying you this money for the next movie'. Eventually he got Rs 11 lakh, Rs 51 lakh, Rs 1 crore and God knows how many crores (as it did well)," he said.

"Don't lose your belief system because the industry will try and corrupt your soul, and say, 'Do this or that, this is what sells.' I believed in the film," he added.

## PM Modi calls for framing Dos and Don'ts for ethical use of digital technology, AI

*PM Modi cited the example of the aviation sector and said a similar framework is needed for the digital world.*

NEW DELHI, Oct 15 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday made a fervent pitch for putting in place a global framework for the use of digital technology and ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI), saying security cannot be an afterthought in an interconnected world. Speaking at the inauguration of the International Telecommunication Union - WTSA and India Mobile Congress here, he favoured clear 'dos' and 'don'ts' to safeguard citizens.

"There is a need for a global framework... guidelines for digital technology," he said. "Time has come when global institutions have to accept the importance of a rule-based framework for digital technology." Digital rules are important not just because they involve personal privacy, media disinformation, the accountability of tech giants, and other issues of societal importance, but also because trade in goods and services rely on international flows of data.

Stating that digital tools and applications are beyond any physical boundaries and no country alone can safeguard its citizens from cyber threat, the Prime Minister said, "dos and don'ts have to be framed at the global level".

"For this, we have to work together. Global institutions have to take responsibility," he said.

He cited the example of the aviation sector and said a similar framework is needed for the digital world.

Global aviation regulations layout a set of technical, legal, and operational requirements to ensure the safety, security, and efficiency of international flights.

Stressing the need of creating a 'Do's' and 'Don'ts' for technology on the global level, the



Prime Minister highlighted the borderless nature of digital tools and applications and urged for international collaboration in combating cyber threats and collective action by global institutions.

The Prime Minister urged the members of the assembly to create standards that are inclusive, secure, and adaptable to future challenges, including ethical AI and data privacy standards that respect the diversity of nations.

Underscoring the need for consensus and connectivity in a world marred by conflicts, the Prime Minister said India is engaged in bringing the world out of conflict and connecting it.

"Be it the ancient silk route or today's technology route, India's only mission is to connect the world and open new doors of progress," he said.

The Prime Minister inaugurated the International Telecommunication Union - World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. He also inaugurated the 8th edition of India Mobile Congress 2024 during the programme. He took a walkthrough of the exhibition showcased on the occasion.

The Prime Minister empha-

sized the need for a human-centric dimension to the ongoing technological revolution, calling for responsible and sustainable innovation. He said that the standards set today will determine the direction of the future, stressing that principles of security, dignity and equity should be at the center of our discussions.

He said our goal should be that no country, no region and no community is left behind in this digital transformation and underscored the need for innovation balanced with inclusion.

"India is one among the most happening countries when it comes to telecom and its related technologies," PM Modi said.

Listing the achievements of India, he said that India has a mobile phone user base of 120 crores, 95 crore internet users and digital transactions of more than 40 per cent of the entire world in real-time.

India, he said, has showcased how digital connectivity has become an effective tool for last-mile delivery.

PM Modi asked sectoral bodies like WTSA to proactively take up the issue. "I would ask WTSA to deliberate on how to make telecommunications safe for everyone." "In this interconnected world, security cannot be an afterthought," he said.

India's commitment towards this is amply displayed in its data protection law, and national cyber security strategy which are steps in creating a safe digital ecosystem.

World bodies need to frame standards that are inclusive, secure and adaptable to any future challenge, he said. "Global standards need to be framed for ethical (use of) AI and data privacy that respect diversity of different countries." "It is critical that in this technology revolution, technology be given a human centric dimension. And it should be responsible and sustainable. Standards set now will determine the future course," he said.

"So security, dignity and equity principles have to be at heart of all discussions. Our aim should be that no country, no region or community is not left out in this digital world. We have to ensure that our future is not just technically strong but is also ethically sound. The future should have innovations, as well as inclusion." Talking of India's experience, he said after the expeditious roll out, 5G telecom services are now available in most places across the country and work on 6G has already begun.

Giving out statistics, the Prime Minister said India has in the last decade become an exporter of mobile phones from being an importer, and has laid an optic fibre network that is eight-time more than the distance between earth and the moon.

India's digital vision that was unveiled in 2014 rests on four pillars - making devices cheaper, connectivity reaching all concerns, affordable data and digital-first, he said.

PM Modi said India is willing to share its experience of successful building of digital public infrastructure with the rest of the world.

## V-P Dhankhar warns of 'demographic disorder' threat to India



NEW DELHI, Oct 15 (Agencies): Echoing the sentiments recently expressed by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday expressed deep concerns over the growing threat of demographic disorder in the country. "Demographic disorder is no less severe in consequences than a nuclear bomb," he said.

Addressing the gathering as the chief guest at the inaugural session of the International Conference for CA members at Birla Auditorium, Jaipur, Vice-President Dhankhar said, "Demographic dislocation is turning certain regions into political fortresses, where elections have no real meaning. It is alarming to see how some areas have been affected by this strategic shift, turning them into impenetrable strongholds where democracy loses its essence."

He elaborated on the broader implications of this issue for India's future, stating that Bharat must remain a stabilising global force. "This force has to emerge. This century

has to belong to Bharat and that will be good for humanity, that will contribute to peace and harmony on the planet. However, it would be a disservice to the nation if we turn a blind eye to the dangers of demographic upheavals that are taking place in this country," the VP warned.

He said organic, natural demographic change is never upsetting but a demographic change brought about in a strategic manner to achieve an object offers a scene that is frightening.

The Vice-President underscored that analysing this demographic shift over the last few decades reveals a disturbing pattern that offers a challenge to our values, to our civilizational ethos, to our democracy. "If this alarmingly worrisome challenge is not addressed systematically, it would escalate into an existential threat for the nation. It has happened in the world. I need not name countries that have lost their identity 100 percent because of this demographic disorder, demographic earthquake," he said.

Vice-President Dhankhar stressed the need for preserving the inclusivity that defines Bharat, saying, "We as a majority are all embracing. We as a majority are tolerant. We as a majority generate a soothing ecosystem. The other kind of majority is brute, ruthless, reckless in its functioning," trampling on the values of the other side."

He urged to leave behind narrow parochial divisions and adopt a nationalistic outlook that embraces Bharat's diversity. "A true citizen of Bharat, celebrates this country's glorious past, regardless of his or her faith, because that is our shared cultural heritage," he added.

He reiterated the need to fight divisive forces that are assaulting India's cultural traditions. He also expressed concern about the disregard for the rule of law by some people.

"There was a time when some people thought they were above the law. They were privileged, but things have changed. Even today, we see responsible people in constitutional positions who do not care about the law, do not care about the nation, and say anything. These are sinister design orchestrated by forces inimical to Bharat's progress. We can't be crazy for political power. Political power has to emanate from the people, through a democratic process that is sanctified," the Vice-President stressed.

## 2 men returning home from fishing electrocuted in Chhattisgarh

KORBA, Oct 15 (Agencies): Two people died of electrocution when they came in contact with a live wire in Chhattisgarh's Korba district, police said on Tuesday.

The victims were on the Tapra-Bela village route under the Balco police station limits on Monday night, an official said.

He said the men were passing through a narrow street on their two-wheeler when it



touched an 11KV power-line hanging on the ground.

Narayan Kanwar (35) and Tikeshwar Rathiya (32) were returning to their homes in Bela village after fishing, the

official said. The bodies were handed over to their families after post-mortem, and a case has been registered against unidentified persons, he said.

## Kerala official accused of wrongdoing at farewell event, found dead at home

KANNUR, Oct 15 (Agencies): A day after his farewell ceremony, Kannur Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Naveen Babu was found dead in his quarters in Kerala on Tuesday. The police reported that Babu, who was set to assume his new role as ADM in his home district of Pathanamthitta, was discovered hanging in his residence on Tuesday morning.

The incident follows a controversial farewell



event held in Kannur, where Babu faced public allegations from District

Panchayat President P P Divya. Despite not being offi-

cially invited, Divya, a member of the ruling CPI(M), attended the event and accused the ADM of delaying approval for a petrol pump project in Chengalai for several months. She claimed that Babu had only granted approval two days after receiving his transfer orders.

During her speech, Divya hinted at knowing the reasons behind this sudden approval and suggested more details would emerge in the

coming days. Speaking in front of the District Collector and other officials, Divya's remarks cast a shadow over the farewell ceremony. Following her speech, she refused to stay for the presentation of a memento and exited the event.

Authorities are investigating the circumstances surrounding Babu's death, which has left colleagues and officials in shock.

## Sivamani Paramesh takes over as new Director General of Coast Guard

NEW DELHI, Oct 15 (Agencies): Sivamani Paramesh on Tuesday took over as the 26th director general of the Coast Guard, a day after his appointment by the Narendra Modi-led central government.

Paramesh was given the additional charge of Director General Coast Guard in August 2024, after the death of his predecessor, Rakesh Pal, due to cardiac arrest.

According to the Defence Ministry, during his period, many significant operations and exercises were accomplished, including the seizure of drugs or narcotic substances and gold worth crores of rupees, rescue of

mariners during severe cyclonic storms, joint exercises with the foreign coast guards, anti-poaching operations, humanitarian assistance during cyclones and natural calamities and coastal security exercises.

In his military career of over 30 years, Paramesh served the Coast Guard in various organisational capacities, both ashore and afloat appointments.

An alumnus of the National Defence College and Defence Services Staff College, Paramesh specialises in navigation and direction.

He has also commanded major vessels of the Coast Guard, which



include the advanced offshore patrol vessel Samar and the offshore patrol vessel Vishwast.

Earlier, Paramesh also served as Deputy Director General (Operations and Coastal Security), Principal Director (Operations) at the Coast Guard Headquarters in New Delhi and Chief Staff Officer (Operations) at the Coast Guard Regional

Headquarters (East) in Chennai.

The Flag Officer was conferred with the Tatrakshak Medal in 2014 and the President Tatrakshak Medal in 2019 for his illustrious service. He was also awarded the DG Coast Guard Commendation in 2012 and Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (East) Commendation in 2009.

## Maharashtra announces Diwali bonus for government staff minutes before poll dates

MUMBAI, Oct 15 (Agencies): Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday announced a Diwali bonus for lower rung government employees, kindergarten teachers and Asha workers. The development came minutes before the Election Commission announced that Maharashtra would go to the polls on November 20, thereby kicking in the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

The government announced a Diwali Bonus of Rs 28,000 for all the employees of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). This is Rs 3,000 more than



the bonus announced last year.

The government also said it would credit Rs 3,000, which includes the 4th and 5th instalments, directly into the bank accounts of eligible women beneficiaries as per the Ladki Bahin Yojana Diwali Bonus

2024 program. As a Diwali bonus, the instalments will be released in advance.

Under the scheme, women with an annual family income of less than Rs 2.5 lakh receive Rs 1,500 in monthly aid. Ahead of the elections, where the ruling Maha-

yuti and the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) are locked in a fierce contest, Eknath Shinde has gone on a welfare scheme announcement spree.

The government has unveiled eight major welfare schemes this year targeting women, the elderly and the youth.

On Monday, the Chief Minister announced that light motor vehicles entering Mumbai would no longer need to pay any toll. The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) has also cancelled the proposed 10 per cent fare hike.

## Israeli strikes on southern Gaza kill at least 15 people overnight

*The Israeli military rarely comments on individual strikes. It says it tries to avoid harming civilians and blames their deaths on Hamas, accusing the militants of sheltering in civilian areas.*

DEIR AL-BALAH, Oct 15 (Agencies): Israeli strikes in the southern Gaza Strip killed at least 15 people overnight, including six children and two women, Palestinian medical officials said Tuesday. In northern Gaza, where Israel has been waging an air and ground campaign in Jabaliya for more than a week, residents said families were still trapped in their homes and shelters.

In the nearby town of Fakhari, a strike hit a house early Tuesday, killing five people, including three children and a woman, according to the European Hospital, where the casualties were taken.

The Israeli military rarely comments on individual strikes. It says it tries to avoid harming civilians and blames their deaths on Hamas, accusing the militants of sheltering in civilian areas.

It's been more than a year since Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel's security fence and stormed in, killing



some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. They are still holding about 100 people captive inside Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel's offensive in Gaza has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not say how many were fighters but say women and children make up more than half of the fatalities. The war has destroyed large areas of Gaza and displaced about 90% of its population of 2.3 million

people.

In solidarity with Hamas, Lebanese militant group Hezbollah has exchanged cross-border fire with Israel for the past year. Israel escalated its campaign against the group in recent weeks.

Rumors circulated for weeks over head of the expeditionary arm of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard Gen. Esmail Qaani's status after an Israeli airstrike that killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut in late September. But Qaani, the head of the Quds

Force, was seen in a black bomber jacket, wiping away tears at an event early Tuesday morning at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport.

In northern Gaza, where Israel has been waging an air and ground campaign in Jabaliya for more than a week, residents said families were still trapped in their homes and shelters Tuesday.

Adel al-Deqes said his relatives tried to move to another place in Jabaliya in the morning, but the military shelled them.

"We don't know who died and who is still alive," he said.

Ahmed Awda, another Jabaliya resident, said they heard "constant bombing and gunfire" overnight and Tuesday morning. He said the military destroyed many buildings in the eastern and northern parts of the camp, which dates back to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation.

"They bombed many buildings; some of them empty buildings," he said.

## Three hospitalised after chemical explosion at Sydney university in Australia



SYDNEY, Oct 15 (Agencies): Three people have been hospitalised after a chemical explosion at the University of Sydney on Tuesday.

Fire and Rescue New South Wales (NSW) said in a statement that emergency crews were called to the University of Sydney Sports Aquatic Center in the inner-city suburb of Darlington at around 10 a.m. (local time) on Tuesday after receiving reports of a person suffering from chemical burns, reports

Xinhua news agency.

Three people -- one university staff member and two bystanders -- were impacted by a chemical reaction that occurred when acid-based chemicals were being moved for disposal.

The male staff member - who News Corp Australia newspapers reported was carrying the chemicals in a bucket at the time of the incident - was taken to hospital with burns to his hands, with the other two also taken to hospital

as a precaution.

"There was a chemical reaction between two products on the site," NSW Fire and Rescue Superintendent Adam Dewberry told reporters. "Everyone is stable and ok," he said.

Firefighters set up an exclusion zone around the site and called for a specialist HAZMAT crew to assist with the incident.

The area was secured and analysed before being decontaminated and declared safe.

NSW Fire and Rescue said that SafeWork and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) have been informed of the incident.

The university said it was grateful there were no serious injuries as a result of the incident but advised students who were in the area to monitor for symptoms and seek medical advice if they start to experience itchy skin or eyes or irritation to their respiratory tract.

## Taiwan detects record 153 Chinese military aircraft after drills

TAIPEI, Oct 15 (Agencies): Taiwan detected a record 153 Chinese military aircraft around the self-ruled island, official data showed Tuesday, after China held a day of large-scale drills.

The aircraft were spotted in the 25 hours to 6:00 am on Tuesday (2200 GMT Monday), the defence ministry said in a statement -- the most for a single day.

Beijing deployed fighter jets, drones, warships and coast guard boats to encircle Taiwan on Monday, with Taiwan responding by dispatching "appropriate forces" and placing its outlying islands on heightened alert.

Taiwan condemned China's actions as "irrational and provocative", and the US called them "unwarranted".

Japan said Tuesday it had expressed its "concerns" to China over the drills, and scrambled fighter jets near

its southern island of Yonaguni.

"The government is closely monitoring the related activities with great interest, and has conveyed Japan's concerns to the Chinese side," deputy chief cabinet secretary Kazuhiko Aoki told reporters.

China claims Taiwan as part of its territory and insisted Monday it will never renounce the use of force to bring the island under its control.

Beijing has ramped up military pressure on Taipei in recent years to accept its claims of sovereignty over the island, and Monday represented the fourth round of large-scale drills in just over two years.

Taiwan's defence ministry also recorded 14 Chinese navy ships in the latest 25-hour period, slightly fewer than the 17 announced Monday afternoon.

Of the aircraft spotted, 111 crossed the median line of the sensitive

Taiwan Strait that separates mainland China and Taiwan, the figures showed.

"Unwarranted" The United States said China's actions on Monday were "unwarranted" and risked "escalation" as it called on Beijing to act with restraint.

China said the drills, dubbed Joint Sword 2024B, were held in areas to the north, south and east of Taiwan.

Beijing declared them over by around 6:00 pm on Monday, about 13 hours after they started. China said the exercises served as a "stern warning to the separatist acts of 'Taiwan Independence' forces".

Taiwan President Lai Ching-te, who took office in May, has been more outspoken than his predecessor Tsai Ing-wen in defending Taiwan's sovereignty, angering Beijing, which calls him a "separatist".

## South Korea conducts 'retaliatory fire' after North Korea blows up border roads

SEOUL, Oct 15 (Agencies): South Korea's military said Tuesday it detected explosions on two cross-border roads connecting the country to North Korea, amid a significant recent deterioration in inter-Korean relations.

The South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that North Korean forces detonated explosives on the Gyeongui Line and Donghae Line, "presumably to block connection roads."

North Korean forces also deployed "heavy equipment" for "further operations," the JCS said.

There was no damage to South Korean forces, it added.

"Our military has conducted retaliatory fire in areas south of the Military Demarcation Line," the JCS statement said. "The military is closely monitoring North Korean



activities and has reinforced surveillance and alert posture in cooperation with the U.S., maintaining a state of full readiness," the JCS said.

Seoul warned on Monday that Pyongyang appeared to be preparing to destroy the roadways.

"The North Korean military has been carrying out activities assumed to be linked to explosions on the roads along the Gyeongui and Donghae lines," JCS spokesperson Col. Lee Sung-jun

said. "If North Korea undertakes a provocation, we will strongly retaliate in terms of our right to self defense," he added.

The North Korean military said last week that it would permanently seal off its border with its southern neighbor, cutting rail and road connections and reinforcing defensive fortifications.

The Gyeongui line connects the western South Korean city of Paju to North Korea's city of Kaesong, while the Donghae line runs along

the east coast. North Korea has spent months laying mines, removing lights and dismantling buildings along the two routes, Seoul said.

Pyongyang said it communicated its intentions to U.S. forces in South Korea to "prevent any misjudgment and accidental conflict over the fortification project."

Tuesday's explosions followed almost a year of rising cross-border tensions, with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un having declared the two nations as "hostile

states" in December 2023.

North Korea has sent thousands of "trash balloons" into South Korea since May, according to tallies released by the JCS.

South Korean civic groups also send balloons into North Korean territory, often carrying rice, essential medicine and leaflets critical of the regime in Pyongyang. North Korea has repeatedly protested such action and threatened a response.

Last week, North Korea accused South Korea of flying drones over Pyongyang and ordered eight artillery brigades to be ready to open fire across the border, according to state media.

Seoul's Defense Ministry warned that Pyongyang will see "the end of its regime" if it causes any harm to South Koreans.

## Japan Election Campaigns kick off, PM Shigeru Ishiba seeks to retain party's majority

TOKYO, Oct 15 (Agencies): Campaigning kicked off Tuesday in Japan for an October 27 election in which new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba is seeking to retain his long-ruling party's majority.

Loudspeaker trucks began circulating and candidates handed out fliers ahead of the vote. Key issues include price rises, regional security, and disquiet over scandals in Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party.

The LDP has governed Japan almost uninterrupted for decades, albeit with frequent leadership changes.

Low voter turnout and a divided opposition mean the party and its coalition partner are highly likely to win.

A weekend Kyodo News poll showed that Ishiba's LDP remains the most popular party at 26.4 percent, versus 12.4 percent who intend to vote for the main opposition Constitution-



al Democratic Party of Japan (CDP).

Former defence minister and self-confessed security policy "geek" Ishiba, 67, won a ruling party leadership election in September and was approved as premier soon afterwards.

He has called a snap election to shore up his mandate for policies that include plans to "recreate" ageing Japan by revitalising depopulated rural areas.

On the diplomatic front, Ishiba has called for revising the Japan-US security treaty to

make it better reflect his country's sovereignty.

He also backs the creation of a regional military alliance along the lines of NATO to counter China, although he has cautioned it would "not happen overnight".

Ishiba says his "victory line" for the election would be for the LDP and its junior partner Komeito to maintain a simple majority in parliament's lower house.

But the LDP will need to convince voters jaded by a slush fund scandal that has swept the party along with ques-

tions over its lawmakers' ties to the Unification Church.

Ishiba has pledged to "ensure Japan's economy emerges from deflation" and wants to boost incomes through a new stimulus package as well as support for low-income households.

Another thorny issue is the question of whether to allow women to retain their maiden names after marriage, an issue where opposition parties hope to gain liberal support.

The justice ministry says that to the best of its knowledge, Japan is the only nation that requires married couples to choose one of their surnames -- almost always the husbands'.

While the CDP supports allowing married couples to maintain separate surnames, the conservative LDP has been more cautious, citing "traditional family values".

## UN troubled by jailing of political opponents in Tunisia

GENEVA, Oct 15 (Agencies): The United Nations said Tuesday it was troubled by the presidential election campaign in Tunisia, which had been "marred" by a crackdown on the opposition.

Three years after making a sweeping power grab, Kais Saied was re-elected president of Tunisia with 90.69 percent of the votes cast, the ISIE electoral authority announced Monday.

A low turnout reflected widespread discontent in the cradle of the Arab Spring pro-democracy uprisings.

Saied had been widely expected to win after the ISIE barred 14 candidates from standing, with other figures jailed.

"Such cases are troubling. Their trials indicate a lack of respect for due process and fair trial guarantees," UN human rights chief Volker Turk said.

His statement recalled that out of 17 prospective candidates only three were accepted, while a number of presidential hopefuls were arrested and served lengthy prison sentences on various charges.

Meanwhile more than 100 pro-



spective candidates, their campaign members and other political figures were arrested on a variety of charges ranging from falsification of electoral paperwork to issues related to national security.

Turk called on the Tunisian authorities to protect the country's democratic processes and uphold fundamental freedoms.

"Since 2011, Tunisia had been a pioneer in efforts to ensure accountability and redress for past abuses, including through the work of the Truth and Dignity Commission," Turk said.

"Unfortunately, a number of these gains have been lost, and the recent arrest of the former head of the commission is an example."

Rights groups fear Saied's re-election will entrench his grip on the only democracy to emerge

from the 2011 Arab Spring protests.

Turk noted the broader context of increasing pressure on civil society over the past year, targeting numerous journalists, human rights defenders and political opponents, as well as judges and lawyers.

"I strongly urge Tunisia to recommit to transitional justice in the interests of victims, and to embark on much needed rule of law reforms, in line with international human rights law, including with regard to freedoms of expression, assembly and association," said Turk.

"I also call for the release of all those arbitrarily detained."

Turk said he was also concerned about the elections authority refusing to apply a ruling by the Administrative Court ordering the readmission of three excluded candidates, with the parliament passing a law removing electoral dispute from the court's jurisdiction just days before the election.

"The rejection of a legally binding court decision is at odds with basic respect for the rule of law," said Turk.



# Arun Gupta accuses Congress of being anti-KP, anti-POJK people & anti-women

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: The Congress is anti-Kashmiri Pandits (KPs), anti-POJK people and also anti-women as these are the groups of people that will be nominated as MLAs by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in the coming days, BJP spokesperson Arun Gupta has said. The Congress had challenged the LG's powers to nominate five MLAs in the Supreme Court with the motive to deny these groups any representation in the Legislative Assembly. However, the apex court dismissed the petition on Monday thereby burying the party's plans to play mischief in this regard, he pointed out.

He expressed gratitude to the Supreme Court for refusing to entertain the Congress petition to stop LG Sinha from nominating five MLAs in the near future. In the J&K Reor-



ganisation Act, 2019, a provision has been made to give nominations to Kashmiri Pandits (one man, one woman) and one person from the community of Pakistan Occupied Jammu Kashmir (POJK) refugees, he said. The powers to nominate MLAs were given to the LG as it was almost impossible for members of these communities to get elected, Gupta said. In the just concluded assembly elections, no

Kashmiri Pandit could win from any of the 90 assembly constituencies, Gupta recalled. Over a dozen KPs had contested from various assembly segments in the Kashmir valley but all of them lost. This clearly proved that it was not possible for them to get elected in any contest for assembly seats. Thus nomination by LG is the only way they can get representation in the legislature, Gupta said.

The power to nominate two KPs to the Legislative Assembly was given to the LG to address such a scenario. The Central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had anticipated this possibility five years ago by observing past trends, he said. As such, the LG will nominate two KPs, one man and one woman, to the assembly soon, he added. After the 2014 assembly elections, the BJP had made two of its

leaders MLAs as Legislative Council existed, he recalled.

In the Union Territory (UT) of J&K, no Legislative Council is there and as such nominations by the LG is the only way out to give legislative representation to KPs. The people from POJK also faced challenges in the electoral arena and nomination will give them legislative representation, Gupta said.

Incidentally, the powers given to LG Sinha to nominate five MLAs are based on a law that was passed by the Congress in 1963, Gupta said. At that time, the creation of a legislature for a Union Territory (UT) was the issue being debated and the UT was Puducherry (called Pondicherry ruled by France once). Initially, a wholly nominated legislature was proposed by then Union Home Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, Gupta said.

After some parliamentarians objected to a wholly nominated legislature, a mixed Legislative Assembly composed of elected and nominated MLAs was proposed. Under Article 239A, a legislature comprising of 30 elected and three nominated MLAs was then created for Puducherry. Even today, the Puducherry legislature has the same composition and the number of nominated MLAs is 10% of their elected counterparts.

The petition filed by the Congress was mainly targeted at Sections 15, 15A and 15B of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, from which the LG derives these powers to nominate MLAs, Gupta pointed out. The petition was apparently ill-timed as well as mala fide and as such not entertained by the apex court which gave marching orders to the petitioner, he concluded.

# Aryans Group of Colleges organises 4th Aryans Shikara Race at Dal Lake



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura Near Chandigarh organized its 4th Shikara Race in world famous Dal Lake, Srinagar. Hundreds of tourists & locals witnessed this race. The race was organised in association with White Globe organisation, JK.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh while Chairperson White Globe, Adv. Syed Junaid sadaat presided over the race. The race commenced

after the flag off by Chairman, Aryans Group Dr. Anshu Kataria. The winners including 1st winner -Imtiyaz Hussain Akhoo; 2nd-adil Ahmad sheikh; 3rd- John mohd khan; 4th -firdous Ahmad khan; 5th - Ashiq Hussain Moti were rewarded during felicitation ceremony.

Dr. Kataria while addressing & congratulating the winners said that today's youth have great potential in every sphere to lead the country. It is a proud moment for all that all Aryans students are multi-talented. He said that Aryans students which are not only

academically strong but also doing very well in innovations. He added that the copyright awarded to Aryans Shikara app by Govt. of India is really remarkable.

Kataria added that Aryans students organized a shikara races last year also which also witnessed participation of hundreds of tourists. In past Aryans students have done many small innovations including "Shikara App", "Solar Boat", "Ramadhan App", "Android App, "eMunshi App" "Safety Helmet", "Save Kashmir" & "Life Saving Glove" for the Valley.

# Vidya Devi assumes charge as Principal ANMT Doda



Top News Report

DODA, Oct 15: Vidya Devi on Tuesday assumed the charge as new Principal Govt ANMT School Doda.

This momentous occasion was marked by a formal induction ceremony, where she was warmly welcomed by the staff of CMO Office

besides dedicated staff members of ANMT Doda. Vidya Devi has a long and illustrious career in the field of Nursing, having previously served as Principal ANMT Kathua for around two years.

Her tenure is anticipated to bring about positive changes and advancements within the institu-

tion, fostering a culture of academic professional excellence and innovation.

"In her new role as Principal ANMT Doda, Vidya Devi is expected to bring her wealth of experience and knowledge to the benefit of the students and staff."

Soon after taking the charge, she held an introductory meeting with the staff and urged them to work with a legacy of dedication for the welfare of the better future of students community undergoing their professional courses at ANMT Doda. She also expressed her gratitude to the staff and thanked them for their love and respect she was accorded on the occasion.

# DPS Jammu students shine in Table Tennis championships

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: Students of Delhi Public School Jammu brought laurels to the school and their parents by winning positions, medals and glittering trophies



C). U-19 girls – Ragini Gupta (XI-B), Chitrani Razdan (X-A), Aarya Giri (XII-B).

47th Jammu District Table Tennis Championship Saiyam Nischal (V-G) – 1st position in U-11, 13 & 15 categories.

in various Table Tennis Championships at District level, CBSE Cluster Games XVIII and SGFI National level held at different places.

CBSE Cluster Games XVIII Tournament (Boys & Girls) U-17 girls team– 3rd place, Misthi Aggrawal (XII-F), Yasha Shree (VIII-C), Tuhina Kargotra (X-C). U-19 girls team – 3rd place, Ragini Gupta (XI-B), Chitrani Razdan (X-A). U-19 girls individual – Ragini Gupta (XI-B) 3rd place.

SGFI National U-19 Championship (Boys & Girls) U-19 boys – Rohan Sharma (XII-F), Rudraksh Sharma (XI-

Alena Arora (V-J) got 1st position in U-11 category. Mishthi Aggrawal (XII-F) secured 1st position in U-17 category & 2nd position in Women category. Aarya Giri (XII-B) got 1st position in Women category.

The management of DPS Jammu, President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC-Dr. Ritu Singh, Director- S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ms. Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated all the winners, their parents and coach, Meenu Ragesh. They also extended their best wishes to them for all their future endeavours.

# BLSKS concludes Sanskriti Mohatsav 2024 at Shubh International School



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: The Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS), in coordination with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, successfully concluded the Sanskriti Mohatsav, a mega cultural program aimed at promoting the traditional folk culture of Jammu and Kashmir. The event, themed around "Swachh Bharat," "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao," "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav," and "Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan," featured the 476th Regular Series Musical Play "Sada Virsa" at Shubh International School, Jia Pota Ghat, Akhnoor.

The program kicked off with a pledge against drug abuse taken by over 200 students, teachers, and community members, led by Miss Chahat Chadha. A certificate of honor from the Ministry of Culture was presented to the principal of the host school by BLSKS.

The event was inaugurated by Chief Guests Parmukh Mahant Brah-

min Giri and Arti Giri from Maira Mandrian Temple, along with Mahant Parmeshwar Dass, President of Durga Temple, Akhnoor. Other notable guests included Sh. V.K. Magotra, Former Regional Director of the Directorate of Field Publicity, and Senior Journalist Mohan Singh Jamwal. The traditional lamp-lighting ceremony marked the commencement of the event, presided over by Mrs. Shilpa Mahajan, Principal of Shubh International School.

The day featured a rich array of performances, including "Saraswati Vandna," "Ved Mantra," and thematic songs and skits focusing on the ill effects of drug abuse. The Chief Guest emphasized the importance of raising awareness about tobacco's health risks and reaffirmed India's commitment to combat drug abuse. The cleanliness campaign under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was highlighted, promoting the significance of hygiene in both urban and rural settings.

Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman of BLSKS, welcomed attendees and discussed the objectives of the event, emphasizing education for every girl child under the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" initiative. He also addressed the withdrawal symptoms associated with substance abuse and the importance of medical support for recovery.

The program coincided with World Students' Day, honoring the legacy of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Sh. Usha Raina, Troupe Leader of BLSKS, highlighted Dr. Kalam's significant contributions to education and science, motivating students to pursue their dreams.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by K.K. Joshi, Program Coordinator, recognizing the contributions of performers and participants, including M.C. Kotwal, Rajni Gupta, Raju Bajgal, and many others. The program, recorded and shared on social media, aimed to extend the reach of its awareness initiatives.

# Army organizes Lecture on Drug Awareness at Tota Gali

Top News Report

POONCH, Oct 15: Mental health issues, performance pressure, growing emptiness, social networking and changing socio-economic condition are affecting the youth of the country, making them vulnerable to addictive distraction.

The abuse of drugs and alcohol is by far the leading cause of preventable illness and premature death in our soci-

ety. Indian Army with organized a lecture to spread awareness about dangers of drug abuse amongst the teenagers and its ill effects in the body and society at Tota Gali, Poonch district.

The focus of the awareness lecture was to enlighten local people about increasing drug menace and its harmful effects, both physical and mental.

Local people were made aware as to how

one time use of drugs to deal with stress or to get a momentary high or to just 'fit in' with his or her peers, affect their lives as well as their family.

The attendees were also informed about the ill effects of Tobacco consumption & how it leads to oral cancer among people. The locals expressed their gratitude towards Indian Army for organizing such awareness programs and seminar on social issues.

## FROM PAGE 1

# Voting marred by violence; 2 firing incidents reported, 6 injured

included a challenge to ward demarcation, delimitation, grievances about poll symbols, extension of time for nominations, and rejection of nomination papers.

# Akal Takht expels SAD leader Valtoha for 'character assassination' of jathedars

Giani Raghbir Singh revealed that Valtoha had targeted Takht Damdama Sahib Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh allegedly at the behest of the BJP-RSS to get Sukhbir Badal removed from the SAD president's post.

Giani Raghbir Singh also made another shocking revelation that Valtoha had "threatened" him too against taking any stern action pertaining to "tankhaiya" Sukh-

bir Singh Badal and had "recorded the conversation secretly, which was morally, ethically and legally incorrect".

"While I was not keeping well last week, Valtoha had visited me at my residence on the pretext of knowing about my well-being. After a normal exchange of words, he 'threatened' me that if any verdict was pronounced against Sukhbir Singh Badal, he would confront it. Besides, it was totally unethical and a betrayal on his part to record the chat between us without my knowledge through his mobile phone," he said.

Giani Raghbir Singh said that Valtoha had submitted his written clarification in person, but his claims were found to be frivolous and baseless. "The SAD working president has been directed to terminate Valtoha's primary membership and bar his participation in any party activity for next 10 years. If still he fails to comply with the orders, he should be ready to face further stern action", he said.

On August 30, the Akal Takht had declared Sukhbir Singh Badal 'tankhaiya' (guilty of religious misconduct) for taking controversial decisions while heading the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and being the Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab from 2007-2017, but the quantum of punishment was

kept reserved. On his social media page, Valtoha had queried about the delay in pronouncing the 'tankhah' (religious punishment) to Sukhbir. Valtoha had claimed that in response to his post, he had received "shocking feedback" that jathedars, allegedly under the influence of the BJP-RSS, intended to remove Sukhbir as the SAD president.

# Kishtwar Blaze: 'LG Administration directs immediate relief efforts for villagers affected by fire'

reported, the focus now shifts to rehabilitating the displaced families and assessing the damage to livestock and property in this remote village.

# Delhi Court extends J&K MP Engineer Rashid's interim bail in terror-funding case till October 28

his client was alleged by the NIA, the lawyer said.

# Supreme Court notice to Centre, EC on fresh plea against freebies

hearing pleas against the practice of political parties promising freebies during elections after senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, appearing for lawyer and PIL petitioner Ashwini Upadhyay, sought urgent hearing of the matter.

Upadhyay's plea said there should be a total ban on populist measures to gain undue political favour from voters as they violate the Constitution, and the EC should take suitable deterrent measures.

It also urged the court to declare that the promise of irrational freebies from public funds before elections unduly influences the voters, disturbs the level playing field and vitiates the purity of the poll process.

"Petitioner submits that the recent trend of political parties to influence voters by offering freebies with an eye on elections is not only the greatest threat to the survival of democratic values but also injures the spirit of the Constitution," the plea said.

"This unethical practice is just like giving bribes to the electorate at the cost of the exchequer to stay in power and must be avoided to preserve democratic principles

and practices," it said. The petition sought a direction to the EC to insert an additional condition in the relevant paragraphs of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968, which deals with conditions for recognition as a state party, that a "political party shall not promise/distribute irrational freebies from the public fund before the election".

The petitioner has urged the apex court to declare that the promise or distribution of private goods or services, which are not for public purposes from public funds, before the elections violates several articles of the Constitution, including Article 14.

# MP Ruhullah Mehdi seeks apology from Kejriwal for his role in 'decisions hurting J&K'

introspected and realised how grave mistake it was, referring to the decisions of August 2019.

He further said that he expected Kejriwal to remain a partner in rebuilding the nation while also empowering the people of J-K.

# Punjab Panchayat polls:

## BJP's impressive performance in J&K is testament to PM Modi's vision: Rohiin Chandan

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: Jammu and Kashmir people have written a new chapter of history in recent assembly polls; this was stated by BJP District Secretary and Media Prabhari Jammu South Rohiin Chandan. He hailed the party's impressive performance in the recent J&K assembly polls as a resounding success of PM Modi's vision and a "historical moment" where the BJP emerges victorious with a mandate of 29 seats in the assembly election. This impressive win is a testament to the people's faith in the BJP's ideology and its vision for Jammu and Kashmir's growth under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

According to Rohiin

Chandan, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have written a new chapter in the state's history, and this victory is a significant milestone in that journey. The BJP's focus on development, good governance, and inclusive policies has resonated deeply with the people, and this mandate is a clear indication of their trust in the party.

Rohiin Chandan's statement comes on the heels of the BJP's intensive campaigning in the union territory, with top leaders like Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressing rallies and promoting the party's "Sankalp Patra" for Jammu and Kashmir. The party's commitment to making Jammu and Kashmir an industrial hub has also resonated with the people.

Rohiin asserted that



the BJP's success is a result of the unwavering efforts of our dedicated party workers, the undisputed leadership of PM Narendra Modi, and our commitment to inclusive growth in the region. We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that the aspirations of every citizen in Jammu & Kashmir are met and that the region continues on its path to peace and prosperity, he said.

Chandan further remarked on the significant progress made by the BJP, underscoring the party's growing influence in the region. In the 2024 elections, the BJP secured 29 seats out of the 62 it contested, marking an increase of four seats compared to its performance in 2014. The party's vote share also rose by 2.66 percent, from 22.98 percent in 2014 to 25.64 percent in 2024, surpassing the National Conference's 23.43 percent vote share. The BJP's ability to mobilize a larger voter base, growing from 3.55 lakh votes to a total of 14.62 lakh votes, underscores its expanding appeal and strengthened foothold in the state. He strongly condemned the Congress party's tendency to blame Elec-

tronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and the Election Commission after every election result. Chandan dismissed these claims as baseless and unrealistic, pointing out that it's become a habit for the Congress party to cry foul whenever they lose elections. It's clear that the BJP is confident in the Election Commission's ability to conduct fair elections, and Chandan's statement reflects this confidence.

Rohiin further added that the BJP looks to build on this momentum; its focus will remain on delivering development projects, improving infrastructure, and enhancing social welfare programs. With PM Modi at the helm, the party is poised to drive growth and progress in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Chandel lauds Jaishankar for his robust foreign policy

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: In a recent statement, senior BJP leader Raju Chandel praised India's Foreign Minister, S. Jaishankar for his robust foreign policy, calling it the strongest and most reliable globally. He emphasized Jaishankar's strategic acumen in defending India's interests and responding to adversaries.

Chandel drew parallels between Jaishankar and Lord Hanuman, suggesting that both possess immense strength and intelligence.

He stated that just as Lord Hanuman brought back Sita's honor, Jaishankar has elevated India's status on the



global stage.

Addressing the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting in Pakistan, Chandel urged Jaishankar to deliver a strong message against terrorism.

He likened Jaishankar's visit to Hanuman's mission to Ravana's Lanka, asserting that India should demand that

Pakistan abandon its terrorist activities and return Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK) to India.

"The entire nation stands united against Pakistan, which he described as a 'terrorist nation' and a 'country of demons,'" Chandel declared. He warned that India's armed forces are fully prepared to reclaim POK and emphasized the need to halt Pakistan's proxy war and terrorism aimed at India.

Chandel's statements reflect a broader call for a strong stance against Pakistan, urging the international community to support India in its fight against terrorism and its quest for territorial integrity.

## Awareness camp organized by Civil Defence Jammu



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: In compliance to Dy. Commissioner-cum-Controller CD, Jammu Civil Defence, Jammu organized Disaster Awareness programmes to mark International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) with the theme of IDRR 2024 "Empowering the Next Generation for a Resilient Future".

The programme was organized at Govt. High School Ban Sultan, Miran Sahib, Jammu under the supervision of DySP

Anita Pawar, Deputy Controller Civil Defence, Jammu. 120 students of the school have attended the programme.

Lectures were delivered on the above topic and the students were made aware about Disaster Management and risk reduction during natural or manmade disaster.

During the programme, awareness about the basic knowledge of First Aid, Fire fighting, CPR, Chocking and other life saving techniques were also given to the participants by the Civil Defence expert.

## JU's Display Your Talent in a new format inaugurated at GPGC Rajouri

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: The University of Jammu's Display Your Talent-Zone Wise, a new format of the flagship Display Your Talent program, was inaugurated today at Government P.G. College, Rajouri. This new initiative, envisioned by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, and approved by the Academic Council, aims to increase participation from colleges in remote areas in cultural and literary activities while promoting regional culture. The Department of Students Welfare, as the nodal office, will organize this event across five zones of Jammu Province - Pir Panjal Zone (Rajouri-Poonch, GPGC Rajouri), Tawi Zone (Jammu - MIER College of Education), Chenab Zone (Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban-Bhaderwah Campus, JU), Devika Zone (Udhampur, Reasi - Udhampur Campus, JU), and Raavi Zone (Kathua-Samba, Kathua Campus, JU).

The inaugural event for the Pir Panjal Zone, being hosted by GPGC Rajouri under the supervision of Dr. K.K. Sharma, Principal of the college, was held today. Dignitaries pres-



ent at the inaugural event included Dr. A.R. Manhas, Dr. Mohd. Iqbal Raina, Dr. Vimal Kishore, Dr. Bharat Bhushan, and Dr. Sanjay Kalotra, along with faculty members, cultural committee members, and students from participating colleges. This mega event offers around 27 competitions in music, dance, literary, fine arts, and theatrical activities. Winners from these zonal events will qualify to participate in the Display Your Talent (Inter-Zonal) competition at the University campus.

The success of this new format is evident, with participation from approximately 175 students from 10 colleges, including GPGC Rajouri, GDC Surankote, GDC Nowshera, GDC Kalakote, GDC Thannamandi, GDC Mendhar, GDC Kotranaka, GDC Budhal, GDC Darhal, and GDC Poonch. In previous years, partici-

pation from the Pir Panjal Zone was limited to just 3-4 students.

All zonal-level Display Your Talent events are being organized under the stewardship of Prof. Prakash C. Antahal, Dean Students Welfare, and overseen by Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee and Prof. Sarika Manhas, Co-Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee, with collaboration from the rectors and principals of the host institutions.

The events are coordinated by Dr. Pritam Singh, Associate Dean SW, Dr. Shailu Sharma, Dr. A.R. Manhas, Deputy Chief Proctors, Dr. Harleen Kaur, Dr. Ripudaman Parihar, Assistant Deans SW, Mansi Mantoo, Media Officer, Sumeet Sharma, Drama Instructor, Ifra Kak, Cultural Officer, Kulbhushan Thakur, and Arif Paul.

## Ajeet Bhagat expresses deep grief over Mulwarwan Village fire incident

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Oct 15: Ajeet Bhagat, senior leader and spokesperson for the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference in the Chenab Valley, has expressed profound grief over a devastating fire incident in Mulwarwan Village, located in the Marwah Sub-Division of Kishtwar District. The fire has tragically destroyed over 50 houses, leaving many families in distress.

Bhagat reported that the fire erupted in one house and quickly spread to others nearby. Due to the remote location of the village and the lack of motorable roads, Fire and Emergency Services personnel are attempting to reach the area via aerial means. He emphasized the urgent need for officials to assist local residents in extinguishing the flames, which were still raging at the time



of his statement. Fortunately, there have been no reports of casualties or injuries resulting from the incident so far.

In light of the situation, Bhagat has called for fire tender stations from Anantnag and Chattro, Kishtwar, to head towards the Warwan area to provide much-needed support. He also urged the Director of Fire and Emergency Services to establish units in remote regions like Marwah, Warwan, and Dachan to better manage such emergencies in the future.

## Arrangements finalised, security beefed up in & around SKICC for Oath ceremony

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 15: All arrangements have been put in place with security being tightened in and around the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar ahead of tomorrow's swearing-in ceremony of Omar Abdullah as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

Omar, along with his Council of Ministers, will be administered the oath of office by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at 11:30 a.m. on October 16 tomorrow.

The Lieutenant Governor extended an official invitation to Omar Abdullah yesterday, marking a pivotal moment for the Union Territory as Jammu and Kashmir prepares to have an elected government for the first time in over a decade.

A letter from the Raj Bhawan read, "I am pleased to invite you to form and lead the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. As separately settled, I shall administer the oath of office and secrecy to you, and to those recommended by you for induction as

members of your Council of Ministers, at SKICC, Srinagar on 16th October, 2024 at 11:30 a.m."

A senior security official said that given the high-profile nature of the event and the presence of the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, comprehensive security protocols are being put in place to ensure the smooth functioning of the ceremony.

The last time an assembly election was held in the erstwhile state was in 2014, leading to a People's Democratic Party (PDP)-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) coalition government. However, that government collapsed in June 2018, and Jammu and Kashmir was placed under President's rule. In 2019, the region was bifurcated into two Union Territories—Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh—after the abrogation of Article 370, stripping the region of its special status.

Senior NC leader Nasir Aslam Wani, said that large number of people want to attend the oath taking ceremony.

"We have reviewed the preparations. Everything will be clear by evening

who will come to attend the oath taking ceremony," Wani said, when asked if Rahul Gandhi has been invited to attend the oath taking ceremony.

Omar Abdullah, who had staked a claim for government formation last week, met with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday and presented letters of support.

President Draupadi Murmu issued a notification ending President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir, clearing the way for the new government to take charge.

The recent three-phase election concluded with the National Conference-Congress alliance securing 48 out of the 90 seats, with Omar Abdullah's National Conference taking the lead. The Congress secured six seats, while the BJP dominated in the Jammu region, winning 29 seats.

Tomorrow's oath-taking ceremony will be a symbolic event as Jammu and Kashmir transitions from nearly six years of central rule to an elected government, with Omar Abdullah at the helm as Chief Minister.

## CRC Jammu celebrates World White Cane Day-2024

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: The Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Jammu celebrated World White Cane Day at Residential School for the Visually Impaired, Roop Nagar, Jammu, emphasizing the importance of mobility and independence for visually impaired individuals in the community.

The students showcased their talents through a vibrant cultural program, which included singing and poetry performances, captivating all attendees and spreading awareness about the capabilities of visually impaired individuals.

In her address, the Chief Guest emphasized the importance of vision

Impaired, Roop Nagar, Jammu and Neeraj Singh, Orientation and Mobility Instructor, CRC Jammu (Samba) distributed six Sugamaya Canes to deserving blind students. This initiative aims to enhance the mobility and confidence of visually impaired individuals in the community.

The students showcased their talents through a vibrant cultural program, which included singing and poetry performances, captivating all attendees and spreading awareness about the capabilities of visually impaired individuals.

In her address, the Chief Guest emphasized the importance of vision

care and encouraged the students to pursue their dreams, regardless of their challenges. The event was coordinated by Neeraj Singh under the guidance of the Director of CRC Jammu, highlighting the collaborative efforts to support the visually impaired community.

Pawan Sharma delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants and guests for their contributions to making the event a success.

This celebration serves as a reminder of the importance of inclusion and accessibility for individuals with visual impairments, promoting a more equitable society.

## Gau Dhwaj Sthapana Bharat Yatra to start from Sept 22

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: The Gau Pratishta Movement aims to elevate the cow to the status of 'Rashtra Mata' through a nationwide initiative focused on cow protection and reverence. Rooted in Sanatan Dharma, this movement underscores the belief that the cow is not just an animal but a mother, a sentiment echoed in various religious texts such as the Vedas and Puranas. The initiative seeks to transition cow protection from the state list to the central list in the Constitution, ultimately establishing India as a nation free from cow slaughter.

Historically, efforts to honor and protect the cow date back to India's independence, with significant milestones including the 1966 Gau Raksha Andolan, during which many cow devotees made immense sacrifices. The current move-



ment is led by Param Gau Bhakt Pujya Gopal Mani Ji and is supported by the Jagadguru Shankaracharyas from the four peethas. Their recent initiatives have included the passage of the Rama Gau Pratishta Samhita Bill and a 42-point Dharma-mand to promote cow welfare and protection.

The Gau Dhawaj Sthapana Bharat Yatra will run from September 22 to October 26, 2024, covering all 36 states and Union Territories of India. Throughout the journey, a sacred Gau Dhawaj will be installed in each state capital, with grand Gau Pratishta Sammelans held to awaken and unite cow devotees. The Yatra will kick off in Ayodhya and culminate in the national capital, emphasizing the collective mission to restore the dignity of the cow.

A significant highlight of the Yatra will occur on October 22, 2024, when Jagadguru Shankaracharya Avimukteshwaranand Ji will preside over the installation of the Gau Dhawaj in Jammu and deliver an address

at the Gau Mahasabha. Following this event, the Yatra will proceed to Leh, Ladakh, continuing its momentum across the nation.

To further solidify the movement's goals, a nationwide Gau Pratishta Mahasam-melan will be organized in Delhi on November 7, 8, and 9, coinciding with Gopashtami. This gathering aims to decisively appeal to the Government of India to recognize the cow as 'Rashtra Mata' and to put an end to cow slaughter.

In preparation for this historic journey, co-convenor Gobhakt Vikas Patni, along with Akhilesh Brahmchari and State convener Deepu Raina, held a press conference on October 2, 2024, to emphasize the movement's objectives and invite participation from cow devotees across the country. The movement's motto, "Gau Mata, Rashtra Mata - Rashtra Mata, Bharat Mata," encapsulates its essence and aspirations, seeking to unite the community in honor of the sacred cow.

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: In a first of its kind, the Non Gazetted Employees Union, University of Jammu, organized a felicitation function to encourage the wards of the Non Gazetted Employees who have secured 90% and above marks in 10th and 12th class.

The ceremony was organized at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu in which luminous prodigy were felicitated by Dean Students Wel-

## JUNGEU organises felicitation function



fare Prof. Prakash Antahal in presence of Dr. Shailu

Sharma (Deputy Chief Proctor), Dr. Rakesh Chib

(President JUNTEU), Vijay Bhat (President JUNGEU), Balbir Singh (Vice-President), Suraj Prakash (Gen. Secretary), Dev Raj (Joint Secretary), Vidya Lal (Organising Secretary), Ram Paul (Publicity Secretary) and Manik Sharma (Cashier).

In his address, Prof. Antahal appreciated this noble initiative of the union which will provide a significant encouragement to the

children to achieve more in life. Such gestures leave a deep impact and thus union deserves praise for this initiative. Dr. Shailu Sharma also congratulated the achievers and wished success for the future endeavours.

Children who were felicitated on the occasion included Bhumika Rajput D/o Surinder Singh, Mannet Bandral & Manik Bandral wards of Swarn Singh,

## OTD in 2021: CSK scripted redemption to win 4th IPL trophy, beat KKR in final

NEW DELHI, Oct 15 (Agencies): On this day in 2021, Chennai Super Kings lifted their fourth IPL trophy, defeating Kolkata Knight Riders by 27 runs in the final held in Dubai. It was a moment of redemption for MS Dhoni's men, who bounced back after missing out on the playoffs in the previous season. CSK's consistent performances throughout IPL 2021 were capped off by an impressive win in the final, with young opener Ruturaj Gaikwad playing a pivotal role in their success during that particular season with a century and four fifties.

Batting first, CSK posted a daunting total of 192/3. Faf du Plessis led the charge with a brilliant 86 off 59 balls, anchoring the innings with well-timed boundaries and clever running between the wickets. Ruturaj Gaikwad also made an impact



with a steady 32, setting a solid platform at the top. Robin Uthappa (31) and Moeen Ali (37\*) added crucial runs towards the end, taking CSK to a challenging score.

CSK's epic redemption  
CSK beat KKR in final

In response, KKR made a flying start with openers Venkatesh Iyer (50) and Shubman Gill (51) adding 91 runs for the

first wicket. However, CSK's bowlers pulled things back remarkably, picking up wickets at regular intervals. Shardul Thakur was the pick of the bowlers with 3/38, while Ravindra Jadeja and Josh Hazlewood also kept things tight, ensuring KKR could not maintain their momentum.

With this victory, CSK became four-time IPL champions, join-

ing Mumbai Indians as the most successful franchises in the tournament's history.

Ruturaj Gaikwad's performances stood out throughout the season. His tally of 635 runs earned him the Orange Cap, making him the youngest player to win the prestigious award. He was also awarded as the Emerging Player of the Season for his performance. Gaikwad also became the first cricketer to win both the IPL title and the Orange Cap in the same season, marking a significant milestone in his young career.

The triumph in 2021 further cemented MS Dhoni's legacy as one of the greatest leaders in T20 cricket. The title win was a testament to CSK's resilience and team spirit, as they once again proved why they are among the most consistent teams in the IPL.

## Don't want to take undercooked Shami to Australia: Rohit Sharma

BENGALURU, Oct 15 (Agencies): India skipper Rohit Sharma has virtually ruled out Mohammed Shami from the upcoming Test tour of Australia, saying that the pacer's recovery from an ankle surgery has been hampered by swelling in his knees and it would not be right to take an "undercooked" version of him for the marquee show-down.

Shami last played for India during the ODI World Cup final last year and has been recuperating from an ankle surgery after that.

"To be honest, right now, it's pretty difficult for us to make a call on him, whether he'll be fit for this series or Australia series. He recently had swelling on his knee, which was quite unusual," Rohit told reporters here on the eve of the first Test against New Zealand.

"He was in the process of getting fit, getting close to 100 per cent, he had swelling in his knee, that put him back a little bit in his recovery. So, he had to start again. Right now, he's at NCA, he's working with the physios and the doctors at NCA," he added.

Rohit said the team management wants Shami to regain full fitness before returning to top-flight cricket.

"We are keeping our fingers crossed, we want him to be 100 per cent fit.

We don't want to bring an undercooked Shami to Australia, that is not going to be the right decision for us.

"It is quite tough for a fast bowler, having missed so much of cricket, and then suddenly to come out and be at his best, it is not ideal," he noted.

Rohit said the National Cricket Academy staff will continue to assess Shami's fitness and he might play a couple of internal matches in that process.

"We want to give him enough time to recover and be 100 per cent fit.

The physios, the trainers, the doctors have set a roadmap for him.

"He is supposed to play a couple of (practice) games before he plays international cricket," he added.

Shami has played 64 Tests for India, taking 229 wickets at an impressive average of 27.71.

India will play five Tests in Australia starting November 22.

## 'Failures are biggest life lessons': Sprinter Jyothika

HYDERABAD, Oct 15 (Agencies): "When one door closes, another opens, and that's exactly what happened. I'm happy I made it to the Olympics," said 24-year-old sprinter Jyothika Sri Dandi, who missed the Asian Games last year due to an injury but successfully qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics as part of the women's 4x400m relay team.

At an event held at Marigold by Green Park to announce the third edition of the Granules Green Heartfulness Run, she had a hearty chat with CE about her journey.

"Becoming a sportsperson wasn't my dream - it was my dad's. He used to be a bodybuilder and was always into sports. Initially, I wasn't interested but gradually developed a strong will to win, and I think that made me love what I do," shared Jyothika.

While the world counts Olympic medals, athletes like Jyothika count the distances they've travelled from their setbacks.

"I've been training for 10 years. Participating in the Olympics is every athlete's biggest dream, though it's not easy to achieve. It took so much hard work and dedication to reach this point. I actually didn't qualify for the Asian Games last year due to an injury but that experience gave me more confidence and motivated me even more for the Olympics,"



explained the sprinter.

Jyothika had much praise for the Granules Green Heartfulness Run and its unique cause, saying, "I have seen a lot of marathons but this one seems different from the rest because it's about saving nature. Considering our busy everyday lives, no one would usually think of plants, so bringing awareness through this run is a great initiative."

The run, slated for November 17, aims to raise funds to plant over 15,000 trees through the 'Forests by Heartfulness' initiative. Other objectives include community engagement, spreading heartfulness practices, and contributing to ecological causes.

The event at Marigold was supported by Fit India and organised by Heartfulness in association with Granules India Limited and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Dr Naina Jaiswal, international table tennis player, Uma Chigurupati, executive director, Granules India Limited, and Sanjay Sehgal, trustee, Heartfulness Institute, were present along with Jyothika at the meet.

Jyothika also emphasised the need for better sports infrastructure in the Telugu states. "I'm originally from Andhra Pradesh but I travel to other states to train because both the Telugu states lack proper facilities like synthetic tracks—there's only one in Gachibowli. We need more coaches, equipment, and much more for an athlete to reach the international level. For the purpose of training, I go to Thiruvananthapuram, where there are nutritionists, physiotherapists, doctors, and everything else that is needed. If we want more medals from the Telugu states in the next Olympics, we need to focus on these aspects," she said.

Finally, she shared her perspective on failure, noting, "I've faced many failures before finally holding a medal in my hand. Failures are the biggest life lessons. I believe that failures push you towards success. I've seen people give up after one mistake or failure, but that's not how it works. You have to put in extra effort after every failure, and I strongly believe that will lead you to success."

## Virat Kohli eyes first test 50 of 2024, aims to hit incredible milestone in New Zealand test

BENGALURU, Oct 15 (Agencies): Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill, the torchbearers of transition, will have to be India's driving force in their quest to lord over an unsettled New Zealand in a three-Test series, beginning here with the first match here on Wednesday. The baton has not been completely passed, but Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma are certainly running their last lap and these two young superstars will have to show that they can carry forward the legacy of the titans.

The signs, so far, are bright. Since a productive series against England earlier this year, Gill is now more familiar and comfortable with the rigours of Test cricket.

His last 10 innings contain three hundreds and two fifties, while Jaiswal's last eight outings in Test cricket feature a 214 and five fifties.

Those numbers are not to be scoffed at. But at the same time, it is important for them to build on the foundation through this series against the Kiwis, a precursor to the much tougher journey to Australia next month.

Gill seemed to have sorted his issues with the in-coming deliveries from pacers, but a trace of the old failing still remains.

In Chennai, Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahamud troubled him with nip-backers before eventually grabbing his wicket.



Similarly, Jaiswal has a penchant to go for expansive shots against pace bowlers to get dismissed, evidenced by his three dismissals recently against Bangladesh quicks.

In all, the left-hander has fallen to pacers 12 times in 20 innings that he has played till now, and he would want a better record before facing a clutch of top-class Australian pacers Down Under.

While these concerns are not deeply rooted, they serve as cautionary points against a New Zealand attack that has capable hands in pacers Matt Henry, William O'Rourke and the experienced Tim Southee, if he gets to play here after a sharp decline in his form.

There is another angle to the emergence of Jaiswal and Gill as the pillars of the Indian lineup, as Kohli and Rohit have not precisely set the field ablaze.

Rohit, who has played 15 innings this year, has made two hundreds but managed only one fifty in the remaining 13,

totaling 497 runs in eight Tests at just over 35.

Kohli, 53 runs shy of 9000 Test runs, has not made even a fifty in six innings this year, and while Rohit often perishes in his attempt to grab the momentum away from opponents, his colleague offers a much more curious case.

The 35-year-old Kohli has not been able to convert the two starts he got this year, ending up with 46 (vs SA) and 47 (vs Bangladesh), stirring the uncomfortable memories of that great slump between 2019 and 2023.

The master batter will also have to keep an eye on New Zealand left-arm spinners - Ajaz Patel and Rachin Ravindra - the tribe who has been a thorn in his flesh in the past.

Aside that, it has been a while since these two stalwarts embossed their mark across a full series, and a nervy New Zealand could be their golden chance to do so and take flight to Perth in a bullish mood.

India has only minor concerns, but New Zealand's troubles across batting and bowling departments are more pronounced.

Their batsmen struggled copiously against Sri Lankan spinners recently while losing an away series 0-2, and here they will have to negate two modern day greats in Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, even more dangerous customers on home surfaces.

They took 20 wickets together against Bangladesh and with the Chinna-swamy Stadium pitch expected to give some assistance to spinners as the match reaches its business end, the veterans might be itching to have a bowl here.

But besides the duo, the Kiwis will have to contend with the freakish genius of Jasprit Bumrah, who rattled Bangladesh picking up 11 wickets across two Tests.

Unlike several other bowlers, conditions do not figure high in Bumrah's playbook as he depends on his stunning skill sets to hunt down the batters.

India will give a long thought before filling the fifth bowler slot. If they persist with the combination from the last series, then Akash Deep will do that duty as the third pacer behind Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj.

Akash has done no harm to his chances either while showing fine control over his craft against Bangladesh,

often chipping in with a wicket or two to sustain the pressure built by Bumrah or Ashwin.

The weather here also has been predicted to be gloomy over the course of this Test match, as there could be some delayed starts and truncated sessions.

So, there is a case for the management to go with a third pacer. But they will also tailor the fact that New Zealand, who have already lost Kane Williamson to an injury, were put through the wringer by Lankan spinners recently.

Hence, India can consider the option of bringing in either left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav or left-arm orthodox Axar Patel, who can double up as a handy lower-order batter.

Teams (from):  
India: Rohit Sharma (c), Jasprit Bumrah (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dhruv Jurel (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep.

New Zealand: Tom Latham (captain), Devon Conway, Kane Williamson, Mark Chapman, Will Young, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Michael Bracewell, Mitchell Santner, Rachin Ravindra, Tom Blundell (wk), Ajaz Patel, Ben Sears, Matt Henry, Tim Southee, William O'Rourke.

## Won't hold back players from pushing limits, says Gambhir

BENGALURU, Oct 15 (Agencies): India head coach Gautam Gambhir said that he will not stop his batters from pursuing a "high risk, high reward" approach in Test cricket even if it means that the side gets bundled out for 100 on some days.

India dished out their own version of 'Bazball' while chasing a victory in the recent Kanpur Test against Bangladesh after more than two days were lost to rain. The team defeated the visitors by seven wickets.

"If they can play the natural game, if they can get 400-500 runs in a day, why not? We will play that way --

high risk, high reward, high risk, high failure," Gambhir said.

"There will be days when we'll get bundled out for 100 and we'll take it up then. But we'll continue to back our players to go out there and play high risk cricket. That's how we want to keep the game going forward and get the results in whatever situation we are in," he added.

However, Gambhir quickly dispelled the notion of playing the game with blinkers, saying "adaptability" will also remain important for his side.

"I had said in Chennai that we want to be a team that can make 400 runs in a day and



bat for two days to draw. That's called growth. That's called adaptability and that's called Test cricket. If you play the same way, then it's not growth," he said.

Gambhir was confident in his wards' ability to tame any situation without sacrificing the team's motto of pushing the limits. "We have a lot of individuals in the dressing room who can bat for

two days. So, ultimately, the first motive is to win the match. If we're in a situation where we have to play for a draw, then that's the second or the third option. We don't want to play any other type of cricket. We want people to go out there and play the natural game," he said.

While admitting that the Kiwis have the ability to "hurt" the hosts,

Gambhir said his side will play "hard cricket" to fetch the desired results. "New Zealand is a completely different challenge. We know that they're a very good team and they've got some really high-quality players. They've got players who can hurt us. They keep fighting. So, three Test matches are going to be a huge challenge. So, we respect them, but we don't fear anyone. We want to be selfless. We want to be humble. We want to try and play the game as hard as possible on the cricket field. Whether it is New Zealand or Australia, we will try to win every match for our country," he said.

## "Test cricket is...": India's Ravichandran Ashwin gives staunch take about Test Cricket

NEW DELHI, Oct 15 (Agencies): Veteran Indian spin bowling allrounder Ravichandran Ashwin envisioned the beauty of Test cricket, calling it a pinnacle of the sport, in a video released by the BCCI on their official social media handle. The video gave glimpses of the team India's practice session in Bengaluru ahead of first Test against New Zealand, with a voice-over by Ashwin. The spinner said that in Test cricket, everyday players need to adapt to conditions and also come up with new strategies and approaches.

"See, Test cricket is always about adaptability, right? You can't start Day 5 like how you started Day 1. Every day you need to be able to adapt to the conditions. That's why they say Test cricket is the pinnacle of this particular sport," Ashwin said in the video. After his Player of the Series performance

in a 2-0 clean-sweep vs Bangladesh last month, Ashwin, who has 527 Test wickets to his name, will be back in action in the series against New Zealand, starting from Wednesday, with the opening match to take place in M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. New Zealand had last visited India in 2021-22 for a two-match series that the hosts won 1-0. In the second Test against Wankhede, New Zealand spinner Ajaz Patel became only the third bowler after Jim Laker and India's Anil Kumble to take all 10 wickets in an innings.

India are currently on top of the World Test Championships (WTC) standings, while New Zealand, title-winners in 2021, are in sixth position. Rohit Sharma's side will be looking forward to consolidating its position in the WTC standings ahead of the all-important tour of Australia starting in November-January.

## Jammu Doctors Forum, Jammu Doctors Association condemn Arvind Kejriwal statement against male gynecologist

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: Jammu Doctors Forum (JDF) terms as illogical and absurd statement of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener and former Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal at Doda wherein he has stated that "Male gynaecologists provide services to women" in Doda district. His statement has created quite an unrest in the society and is against the medical principles and ethics. This has also questioned the credentials of doctors practising genealogy which needs to be rectified.

The medical profession is inherently gender-neutral, prioritizing skill, expertise, and patient care above all else. Arvind Kejriwal's remarks in Doda, Jammu, targeting male gynaecologists, not only challenge this



core principle but also perpetuate gender bias in a field where competence should be the only focus. Both male and female gynaecologists are highly trained professionals committed to women's health, and comments like these foster needless divisions in a profession dedicated to healing and service, not gender distinctions.

Jammu and Kashmir is already having shortage of doctors and those working in far off places like Doda and Bhader-

wah are performing their duties in adverse conditions and catering to the needs of people including women who are our sisters and daughters.

Kejriwal statement has create furor amongst women patients as if male doctors are aliens and don't adhere to their ethics. This has divided society and created an unrest. Kejriwal is a learned person who know the adverse effects of such statements.

We seek his unconditional apology for mis-

guiding masses, misleading them and defaming the noble profession of doctors who are working hard to provide best medial services in India. Kejriwal must know that a number of best genealogists in India are male who are performing their duties at par with their female colleagues ably and catering to the people since several decades and no one has ever questioned their integrity.

Kejriwal must also know that Sushruta who is considered the Father of Indian Medicine was also male and like that Sage Agastya, Caraka and Vagbhata, Atreya and Agnivesa besides Atreya were all known for their capabilities in Indian medicine field and they were all male. Well known male gynecologists of Jammu region who are serving the society for generations like Dr.Ajay

Wakhloo, Dr.Kasturi Lal, Dr.Sunil Chowdhary, Dr.Anil Mehta, Dr.Yudhishter Vir Gupta, Dr.Vinay Menia, Dr.Arun Arora and Dr.R.C.Sharma are famous names in Jammu and Kashmir. Their dedication, commitment experience expertise and excellence is unquestioned.

We condemn the statement of Arvind Kejriwal and seek an unconditional apology from him or else we appeal to the people of Doda and other areas to see the nefarious designs in his statement that's aimed at dividing society on the gender basis.

President Dr.Satya Dev Gupta, Vice President Dr.Varinder Sharma, General Secretary Dr. Dushyant Chowdhury and Sr. Gynecologist Dr.R.C.Sharma were present in the press conference.

## LFO-BHF, JMC & Talla Jewellers lead "Save River Tawi Campaign"



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: The Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF) NGO, in collaboration with the Jammu Municipal Corporation & Talla Jewellers and with the support of NSS Wings of several educational institutions including G.G.M Science College, M.A.M P.G College, S.P.M.R College of Commerce, Govt. College for Women, Parade, Govt. College of Education Jammu and Climate Front Jammu & INARA to embark on a mission to protect and preserve the pristine water of River Tawi.

The "Save River Tawi Campaign" was a three-day initiative that took place on the auspicious occasions of Durga Ashtami and Ram Navmi at Tawi Ghat, Bikram Chowk.

The primary objective of the campaign was to segregate waste into biodegradable and non-biodegradable categories. This allowed only 'Holy Sakh' and limited biodegradable items to be gently immersed into the river, while non-biodegradable waste was collected for proper disposal and recycling by the Jammu Municipal Corporation. The meticulous execution of this plan resulted in the collection of approximately 1492 kilograms waste.

Kashish Gupta, CEO Talla Jewellers, expressed her gratitude to all the volunteers, partner organizations, and the local community for their unwavering support. She emphasised that initiatives like the "Save River Tawi Campaign" reflect the organisation's commitment to fostering positive change and creating a cleaner, more

sustainable environment for future generations.

Vivek Parihar, Director & CEO LFO-BHF stated, "The success of this campaign demonstrates that with dedication and collaboration, we can address environmental challenges and make a difference.

Samar, Secretary & Domain Incharge of Environment LFO-BHF said "We look forward to continuing its efforts to protect our environment and nurture a spirit of togetherness and responsibility."

Members present at the campaign included Radhika Bhumiya, Muskaan, Vishal, Abhinandan, Jyoti, Sahil, Shubam Gupta, Shubam, Abhishek Gupta, Kangan Navya, Stuti, Sonal, Kashish Katoch, Kashish, Sonal, Vidit, Radhika, Manvi, Diya, Kangan and others.

## Heritage School excels at Junior Badminton Tournament



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: Heritage School students delivered exceptional performances at the Junior Badminton Tournament organized by JK Police, held on October 12 & 13, 2024, at the JK Police Badminton Hall, Jammu. Competing in the U-19 Boys category, they brought home impressive honours.

Shauryaveer Jasrotia of Class 12th C, secured two gold medals in both U-19 Boys Singles and

Doubles categories, along with a cash prize for his achievements.

Kanishk Mall of Class 8th B, advanced to the semifinals and was also awarded a cash prize for his efforts.

Their outstanding achievements have brought immense pride to the school. Heritage fraternity extends heartfelt congratulations to Shauryaveer Jasrotia and Kanishk on their stupendous performance and wish them continued success in their future endeavours.

## Dawar Blaze: MLA-elect Nazir Gurezi calls for inquiry

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 15: In a devastating incident in Dawar, Gurez, a border area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district, a major fire on Sunday ravaged the local market, destroying at least seven shops and several residential houses.

Nazir Ahmad Gurezi, senior National Conference leader and the MLA-elect of Gurez, said on Tuesday that allegations have surfaced that the firefighters dispatched to control the blaze arrived without water, exacerbating the damage.

"I have received allegations that the firefighters who responded to the incident came without water," Gurezi said.

"I don't know the truth yet, but I have spoken to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) to initiate an inquiry into the matter. If there is any negligence or lapse, appropriate action will be taken."

The fire, which started in one of the shops in the Dawar market, quickly spread to adjacent buildings.

Initial reports had suggested that nearly six to seven shops were completely gutted, along with damage to two or three residential houses.

Gurezi emphasized that immediate relief

measures were taken for the victims. "The district administration is currently assessing the losses, and relief will be provided accordingly. We are ensuring that those affected by this unfortunate incident are given the help they need as soon as possible."

Arif Ahmad, In-charge Deputy Director of Bandipora, who also oversees Baramulla and Kupwara, however has refuted the allegations, calling them baseless.

"It is impossible for firefighters to respond to an operation without water. Such claims are nonsense," Arif told. He emphasized that the department is always prepared for such situations, explaining that while fire trucks carry a limited supply of water, once depleted, they continue operations by sourcing water from nearby areas.

Ahmad also alleged that angry residents damaged important equipment belonging to the fire department.

He further clarified that the delay in responding was due to receiving late information about the fire.

"Our fire station was within walking distance, but we were not informed in time. Had we received timely information, the fire would not have spread so extensively."

## 9th Kunwar Viyogi Utsav celebrated by KVMT & Dogri Sanstha

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 15: Prof Lalit Magotra, prominent writer and president of Dogri Sanstha Jammu, was awarded with prestigious Kunwar Viyogi Sahitya Kala Samman - 2024.

The award ceremony, held at Dogri Sanstha Jammu, was a part of the 9th annual Kunwar Viyogi Utsav to celebrate the life and works of the Sahitya Akademi Awardee, Kunwar Viyogi- often referred to as the 'Father of Dogri Sonnets'.

Prof. B. S Sahay, Founder Director of IIM Jammu, who was chief guest on the occasion, presented Lifetime Achievement Award to Prof Magotra, in the presence of Kunwar Viyogi Memorial Trust Founder, Poonam Singh Jamwal, KVMT Chairman Goverdhan Singh Jamwal and prominent literatures.

On the occasion, young Dogri writers - Satish Kumar and Pawan Verma were awarded with Kunwar Viyogi Sahitya Puraskar - 2023-24 for their first Dogri published book.

Annual Prem Jamwal Art and Innovation award-2024 was presented to



India's first all girls Dogri band - The Dogra Girls. Vocalists Kriti Singh, Cherish Banhotra and Kashika Bassi, for their Dogri song Kunjua, composed and directed by renowned Dogri music director and singer Jitender Singh Jamwal.

Sonali Dogra was honoured at the event with a citation for her sensational Dogri song Baabul - The Wedding Song, composed by noted Dogri music director Brij Mohan.

The event began with a welcome address by renowned Dogri writer and linguist, Prof Veena Gupta, followed by introduction of Kunwar Viyogi Sahitya Kala Samman - 2024 by KVM Trust founder, Poonam Singh Jamwal. She stressed the need to develop a user-friendly Dogri app for promotion of Jammu.

Senior Broadcaster, AIR

Jammu, Madhavi Sharma read Prof Magotra's citation and Prof Sahay presented the award to Prof Magotra. The chief guest also awarded winners of Kunwar Viyogi Sahitya Puraskar - 2023-24, Prem Jamwal Art and Innovation award- 2024. The citations on both awards were read by Promila Manhas.

Prof Sahay lauded the initiatives of KVM Trust for the promotion of Dogri literature and talent.

Following the award presentation ceremony, Dogra Girls performed their award-winning song Kunjua, live before the audience.

The program was beautiful conducted by Dogri writer and News Reader Promila Manhas.

Vote of thanks was presented by KVM Trust Chairman Goverdhan Singh Jamwal.

## Danish Manzoor to represent India at 6th Kasad Asian Open G2 Olympic Ranking Championship

### Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Oct 15: Danish Manzoor, a promising Taekwondo athlete from Kashmir, is set to represent India at the 6th Kasad Asian Open G2 Olympic Ranking Championship in Tangerang City, Indonesia, from October 15 to 19, 2024. This prestigious championship is a significant event in the Taekwondo calendar, contributing to the Olympic rankings and showcasing top talent from across Asia.

Danish is being sponsored by DLOI Exports, an Indian-based producer, manufacturer, and exporter, which is proud



to support his journey in the world of Taekwondo. The sponsorship underscores the company's commitment to promoting sports and nurturing talent in India, providing Danish with the necessary resources to excel in this important competition.

Earlier this year, Danish made his mark on the international stage by competing in the World Taekwondo Presidents Cup-Asia Region, where he secured an impressive 6th rank. This achievement not only highlights his skill and dedication but also sets a strong precedent as he prepares for the upcoming championship in Indonesia. Danish has been training under Master Atul Pangotra (Chief Coach, J&K) and Aasif Ahmed Shah (NIS, S&C). He expressed his gratitude to Secretary Sports Council Nuzhat Gul for her support throughout the training camp.

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