

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Rashmika Mandanna to promote cyber safety



NATIONAL | 7

Could've died if insulin was not given to me in jail: Arvind Kejriwal jabs BJP

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Pakistan PM Shehbaz urges SCO members to strengthen framework for regional challenges



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-286 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Omar pays tributes to National Conference founder Sheikh Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Oct 16 (Agencies): Chief Minister-designate Omar Abdullah on Wednesday paid tributes at the mausoleum of National Conference founder Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah ahead of his swearing in ceremony.

Dressed in a Pathani suit and coat, the 54-year-old Abdullah offered floral tributes at the graveyard of the party founder.

"Omar Abdullah offered prayers at his grandfather Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's mausoleum in Hazratbal, ahead of his swearing ceremony as the first Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory," the National Conference said.

The chief minister and his ministers will be administered the oath of office and secrecy by J-K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at 11:30 am.

SRS congratulates new J&K Govt, urges for restoration of J&K Statehood, Darbar Move practice



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: Shri Ram Sena (SRS), under the leadership of its J&K President Rajiv Mahajan, has extended heartfelt congratulations to the newly formed Union Territory government in Jammu and Kashmir following the electoral victory of the National Conference and Congress alliance in the recent assembly elections.

In his congratulatory message, Mahajan expressed optimism about the future governance of the region, while also raising crucial issues that have been of significant concern to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Rajiv Mahajan emphasized the importance of restoring J&K's

Turn to page 9

J&K UT gets its first elected CM as Omar Abdullah takes oath

SRINAGAR, Oct 16 (Agencies): National Conference leader Omar Abdullah was sworn in as the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, the first elected government in the Union territory since 2019 when Article 370 was abrogated.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha administered the oath of office and secrecy to Abdullah, who takes over as chief minister for a second term and is the third generation of the Abdullah family to occupy the



office — after his grandfather Sheikh Abdullah and father Farooq Abdullah.

Five ministers —

Sakina Masood (Itoo), Javed Dar, Javed Rana, Surinder Choudhary, and Satish Sharma — also took the oath of

office.

While Itoo and Dar are from the Kashmir valley, Rana, Choudhary and Sharma are from the

Jammu region.

The Congress said it will not join the council of ministers for the moment.

JKPCC chief Tariq Hameed Karra said the Congress will not join council of ministers in J-K for the moment as it is unhappy that statehood has not been restored.

INDIA bloc leaders attended the event in full strength. Among those who had gathered at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention

Turn to page 9

Huge responsibility on my shoulders: J&K Dy CM Surinder Chowdhary



SRINAGAR, Oct 16 (Agencies): Deputy Chief Minister of J&K UT Surinder Chowdhary Wednesday said that a huge responsibility has been put on his shoulders and that it was challenging to fill the ten years of vacuum in just

five years.

While talking to reporters after taking the oath as Deputy Chief Minister of J&K, Chowdhary who defeated BJP J&K chief Ravinder Raina from Nowshera constituency, said: "I have been allotted the Deputy CM's portfolio which is a big responsibility on my shoulders. I will try to fulfil my responsibility to the best of my capabilities. It is very difficult to fill the vacuum of the past 10 years. I have full faith in the leadership of CM Omar Abdullah and hope to serve the people

Turn to page 9

Statehood for J&K a priority: Kharge

SRINAGAR, Oct 16 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Wednesday said that they will ensure the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir soon.

Addressing reporters in Srinagar after the swearing-in ceremony, Kharge said, "We are happy that our alliance partner has



become the Chief Minister, and democracy has

been established here after a long time. We will

ensure that statehood is restored."

Kharge also congratulated Omar Abdullah on his appointment as Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

Five other ministers were also sworn in alongside the J&K Chief Minister.

Turn to page 9

Crown of Thorns: Farooq Abdullah after Son Omar takes oath as CM

SRINAGAR, Oct 16 (Agencies): It is a crown of thorns and may Allah help him fulfil the hopes of people, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said on Wednesday after his son Omar Abdullah took oath as the first chief minister of the union territory of



Jammu and Kashmir. Taking a cue from

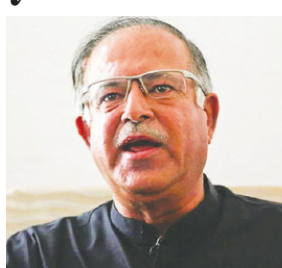
his grandfather, Zahir Abdullah, Omar Abdullah's son, said the new government's first priority is restoration of statehood.

"The state is full of challenges and I hope this government will do what it had promised in

Turn to page 9

"Congress not joining ministry in J&K govt as statehood promise from BJP remains unfulfilled", says JKPCC Chief

SRINAGAR, Oct 16 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Chief Tariq Hameed Karra said on Wednesday that the Congress party is not joining any Ministry in newly formed J&K government "at the moment" as despite repeated promises made by Prime Minister for statehood, it has not been restored.



In a statement, the JKPCC Chief said, "Congress Party is not joining the Ministry in Jammu and Kashmir government at the moment.

Congress has strongly demanded from the Centre to restore Statehood to J-K, besides the Prime Minister has time and again in public meetings promised the same. But the Statehood has not been restored to J&K."

"We are unhappy therefore we are not joining the Ministry at the moment. Congress

Turn to page 9

After Omar's Swearing-In, Mehbooba Mufti congratulates JK for electing a stable Government

SRINAGAR, Oct 16 (Agencies): Following Omar Abdullah's oath-taking ceremony, PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti congratulated the people of Jammu and Kashmir for electing a stable government. She expressed hope that the new administration would address the grievances of the people of JK caused by the revocation of Article 370 in 2019.

"People in Jammu and Kashmir have been deeply hurt by the August 2019 decision, which they still do not accept," Mufti said. She urged the government to

address pressing issues such as drug addiction, unemployment, and the electricity crisis.

When asked about the reduced powers of the Chief Minister in the Union Territory, Mehbooba Mufti said that the people have given a mandate to the National Conference with the hope that their suffering will be alleviated. She added that the wrongs of 2019 should be condemned on the floor of the house to send a strong message to the world.

"PM Modi removed Article 370 after consulting Farooq, Omar Abdullah": claims Er Rashid

SRINAGAR, Oct 16 (Agencies): President of Awami Ittehad Party and MP, Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer Rashid on Wednesday alleged that Farooq Abdullah and Omar

Abdullah colluded with Prime Minister Modi on the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rashid asserted that PM Modi consulted with the Abdullaha before

making the move. He also alleged that the BJP helped the National Conference (NC) regain power in the valley.

Engineer Rashid said, "Omar Abdullah speaks

Turn to page 9

GupShup
RESTAURANT

We're Open!

Monday - Sunday

10 AM - 10 PM

PLEASE VISIT

Ban Bantala, Old Nagrota Highway, Jammu (J&K)

+919800007125, +9198000072540

Other facilities:

AC Rooms at reasonable prices | Hi-speed internet facility

Free pickup and drop service (within 5 kms for room customers only)

MOURNING/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief we regret to inform you that our mother **Mrs Indu Dasi** (W/o Late Dr G.S Dasi) left for her heavenly abode on 14th Oct 2024.

Mourning will be observed at 228, Savitri Towers VIP Road Zirakpur 140603.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Haridwar on 22nd October 2024.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh.HL Dasi & family

Smt.Sunita Dasi W/o Lt. Ravinder Dasi & family

Daughters and Son in law :

Iesha Dasi W/o Rohit Koul

Manvika Dasi W/o Rohit Malb

Grand kids: Lehar, Vishruth and Vanya

Contact Number: 7719926686, 7738060099

9953462217, 9873492217



Mrs Indu Dasi

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

10TH DAY KRIYA

The soul of our family passed away peacefully to merge with eternity on 8th of October, 2024 originally resident of 15, Baghi Sunder Bela Chattabal Srinagar presently at H.No 23, Sec-2, Pampsh Colony, Jampur, Jammu (J&K).

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 17th of October, 2024 at 8.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Brother & Bhabhi

Sh. P.K. Sachu & Smt. Chandra Kanta Sachu

Sh. Krishen Sachu & Smt. Nirmala Sachu

Smt. Basanti Raina - Sister

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Sh. Rajinder Koul & Smt. Monika Koul

Sh. Ravinder Koul & Smt. Vasundhara Koul

Sh. Ritu Moza & Smt. Anvita Moza - Daughter & Son-in-law

Grand Children: Shivi, Sharen, Shray, Chiki, Manvi, Ridhiman, Jiya, Rudransh, Sanshray, Durga

And the entire Sachu, Moza, Bazaz Families

M's Chemist Conner

Chemists & Diagnostics

Laxmi Nagar Sarwal

7889695042, 6006203549



G.L. KAUL (SADHU)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Chandrakanta Katoch** W/o Late Sh. Lehar Singh Katoch, R/o -Trikota Enclave, Lower Muthi, Akalpur Road, Jammu. (Native of village Hambal, Dist Doda) who left for heavenly abode on 07-10-2024 at 6.30 P.M.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 16-10-2024 Wednesday at 10.30 A.M at our residence.

KRIYA will be performed on 19-10-2024 Saturday at 10.00 A.M at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Daughter's and Son-in-Law:- Indira Katoch, Vibhu Saini & Anjana Katoch, Anesh V

Sister and Brother's:- Vaisnoo Katoch, Ramchander Manhas, Satish Chander Manhas

Grand children:- Ritvi, Harishkh, Siya, Prachi, Aarav and Parthiv.

MANHAS FAMILY AND KATOCH FAMILY.

NTIN KATOCH 9441164644, 9971377969, 9960608481



Smt. CHANDRAKANTA KATOCH

RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Arvind Maini** S/o Lt. Shri Ram Maini R/o Hari Mohalla Surankote Dist Poonch, who left for heavenly abode on 2-10-2024.

Rasam Pagri/Uthala will be performed on 18-10-2024 (Friday) at Krishan Mandir near Bus Stand Surankote from 3 PM to 4 PM.

Deeply Missed & Remembered by: Smt. Asha Maini- Wife

Brother & Bhabhi

Smt. Shashi Bala & Ashok Maini

Son & Daughter-in-law

Smt. Sunaina & Vikas Maini (Vicky)

Son & Daughter-in-law

Smt. Anu & Vishal Maini (Rookey)

Smt. Sonam & Sachin Maini - Son & Daughter-in-law

& Malhotra Family, Chadda Family, Oberoi Family, Behel Family, Anand Family & Gupta Family.

Grand Children : Vani, Siya, Ridhi, Kaniya, Shrivani, Bhuvik, Pragyan.

PH NO: 9149880882, 7006478938, 9858624123



Sh. Arvind Maini

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With deep sorrow and regret, we inform you about the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Nancy Ji Trisal (Kaushalya)**, W/o Sh. Roshan Lal Trisal at 5/ 143, Lane 23, Jagti Colony, Nagrota, Jammu.

Mourning is being observed at the Community Hall, behind Lane 7 and Lane 8, Jagti Colony, Nagrota, Jammu.

The 10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Sunday, 20th October 2024, at 9 AM at Muthi Ghat, near the Directorate of School Education, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Sh. Roshan Lal Trisal (Husband)

Daughter & Son-in-law

Mrs. Sweety & Mr. Sanjay Kar

Mrs. Ritu & Mr. Sumert Satia

Son & Daughter-in-law

Mr. Aashish & Mrs. Karuna Trisal

Mr. Rajesh & Mrs. Namrita Trisal

Samast Trisal, W/o Koul, Harjura, Paer, Miri, Saraf, Kuchroo, Kar and Stathia Parivars.

CONTACT NUMBERS:

789977636, 9810555939, 8899710822, 9810225939, 9858110000



Smt. Nancy Ji Trisal (Kaushalya)

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/ UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Ritu Devi** W/o Sh. Harsh Kumar who left for heavenly abode on 8-10-24.

10TH DAY will be performed on 17-10-2024 (Thursday) at Hanuman Mandir (Digiarna Puli) at 11 AM.

KRIYA will be held on 19-10-2024 (Saturday) at our residence at Rani Talab Digiarna Jammu.

UTHALA will be on 19-10-2024 Saturday at Hanuman Mandir at 4 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Utam Lal Gupta & Smt. Babli Devi - Jeth & Jethani

Sh. Sargevan Gupta & Smt. Anita Devi - Jeth & Jethani

Sh. Narinder Kumar & Smt. Shalvi Gupta -Devar & Devarani

Smt. Kamlesh Kumari & Sh. Surinder Kumar - Sister & Brother-in-law

Sh. Bodh Raj & Late Smt. Darshna Devi -Chacha & Chachi

Sh. Dewraj Chand & Smt. Raksha Devi - Chacha & Chachi

Mrs. Muskan Mahajan & Mr. Nikhil Gandotra - Daughter & Son-in-law

Mr. Movil Mahajan - Son

Jiano - Grand Child

MOB: 7889663556, 9419230952



SMT. RITU DEVI

CHOUBARSI

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Rama Kumari

16th February 1960 - 31st October 2020

Four years have passed without you but your Presence is deeply rooted in our Mind, Heart & Soul Choubarsi of our beloved **Late Rama Kumari** W/o Shri Kaka Ram Khajuria H.No 71 Phase 2nd Housing Colony will be performed on Thursday at Shiv Mandir Housing Colony Udampur on October 17, 2024 at 2 PM onwards.

DEEPLY LOVED & REMEMBERED BY:-

Manik Khajuria - Son

Roshi - Daughter-in-law

Manav Khajuria - Son

Mayan Upmanyu - Grand Son

9419995838, 7006851905, 7889566544



RAMA KUMARI
16th February 1960 -
31st October 2020

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 sha'll be performed on 15/10/2024 at Rani Park (Tottiyari) 10.00 am to 11.00 am.

11th Day Kriya sha'll 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, Rehati between 3.00 to 4.00 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Kiran Sharma (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. Ankita Sharma (Son & Daughter-in-law)

Grand Childrens : Priyanshi, Bhavya & Samarth

Contact No.: 9419656839, 6005369020, 9086237641, 7006316958



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

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we would like to inform you all about the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Lajwanti Sharma** W/o Late Sh. Nanak Chand Sharma R/o Muthi, Jammu.

The Tenth Day will be performed on 17-10-2024 (Thursday) at 11.00 AM at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons

Ved Parkash, Sushil Sharma, Rampal Sharma, Radha Krishan

Grand Son: Deepak Sharma, Pallav Sharma, Pankaj Sharma,

Aman Sharma, Archit Sharma

Mobile: 9596735000, 9149523096



SMT. LAJWANTI SHARMA

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Moti Lal Koul (Bamchoonthoo)** husband of Smt Chooni Bhan, originally resident of Bagh Jogilanker Rainawari presently at Bengaluru, who left for his heavenly abode yesterday the 14th October at Bangalore. We also pray Almighty to bestow eternal peace to the noble soul and provide us the courage to bear this irreparable loss. Om Shanti Om.

R K Bhan

Subash Nagar Jammu

7006452414, 9419196533

Nirmala Bhan

9419242344

GRIEF STRICKEN

BHAN'S

KOUL'S (BAMCHOONTHOO'S)

9901357400

+ 15185222000

DHAR'S

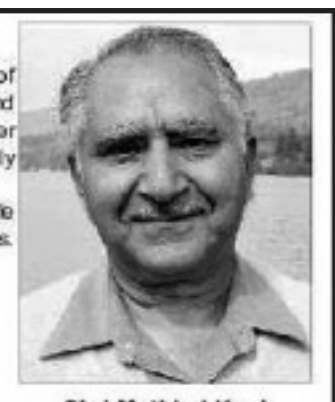
P N Bhan

Amber Colony Talab Tilko

Jammu

7889783383

9419191055



Shri Moti Lal Koul

ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you about the sad demise of **Sdn. Harbans Kour** W/o Late S. Inder Singh R/o Kamsar Ward No. 09 , Poonch , who left for heavenly abode on 12/10/2024.

PROGRAMME

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 17-10-24 at our residence at 9:30 a.m.

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 19-10-24 at our residence at 9:30 a.m

Kirtan and Antim Ardas from 10 a.m. to 12:30

p.m. followed by Guru ka Langar at Gurudwara

Bethak Mahant Mohar Singh Ji Near Distt. Hospital, Poonch.



SDN. HARBANS KOUR

GRIEF STRICKEN -

Capt. S. Aranjeet Singh (Son) (USA)

S. Onkar Singh (Son)

S. Balbir Singh (Son)

S. Hardev Singh (Son)

S. Pardeep Singh Bali (Son-In- Law)

Sdn. Jagbir Kour (Daughter)

Sdn. Ranjeet Kour (Daughter)

Grand Sons & Daughter

Nirvair Singh Bali

Upneet Singh

Nitname Singh Bali (Australia)

Rupneet Kour

Dhaniveer Singh

Tania, Isha, & Ansh

Contact - 6006725825, 6005936623

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you about the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Sneh 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 P.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Prashant Gautam & Neetu Sharma (Son & Daughter in law)

Divya Gautam W/o. Late Col. Vikas Gautam (Daughter in law)

Suruchi & Rajesh Dogra (Daughter and Son in law)

Smt. Sanjosh Dubey (Sister in Law)

Smt. Shantia & Sh. V. D. Sharma (Sister in law & Brother in Law)

Sanjay & Nandani Sharma (Nephew & Daughter in law)

Sanjeev & Seema Sharma (Nephew & Daughter in law)

Vineet & Ritu Gautam (Nephew & Daughter in law)

Sahaj, Medha, Tanya, Mohar, Suhani, Ikarshi (Grand Children)

And All Kemi & Dogra Family

Mobile : 9419195030, 9468389489, 9468001402



SMT. SNEH LATA SHARMA

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.

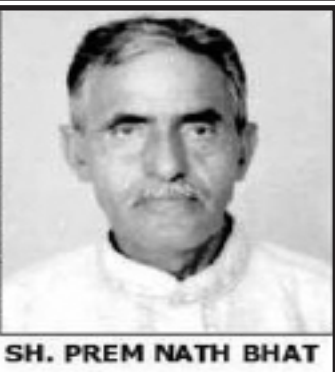
GRIEF STRICKEN

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

CHOUBARSI

Choubarsi of our beloved **Late Smt. Neha Rani Datta** W/o Late Sh. Sanjeev Datta (Pritoo) Daba Wale who had expired on 31/10/2020, will be performed on 17/10/2024. Aarabh of Shri Ramayan Akhand Path will be on 16/10/2024 at 8:00 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

Mess Sonali Datta - Daughter

Brother-in-laws & Sister-in-laws

Bk. Gulshan Kumar Datta &

Uphold peace initiatives set by Modi Govt in J&K: Kavinder to Omar Govt

NC should not implement agenda of releasing stone pelters, as promised during election campaigns

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta expressed hope that the new government led by Omar Abdullah will continue to uphold the peace initiatives established by the Modi government in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued today, the BJP stalwart emphasized "Omar Abdullah has taken oath as the first Chief Minister of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, and we hope that his administration will not implement the agenda of releasing stone pelters, as was promised during the election campaign." He further added that the government must cooperate with the Centre to ensure the region remains peaceful and secure, continuing the trajectory set by the Modi government.



The senior BJP leader underscored the need for balanced development across all regions and communities. He noted that previous governments led by the National Conference and Congress had a history of discriminating against Jammu and Ladakh, favoring certain areas over others. "The Modi government has demonstrated a model of inclusive development, ensuring that no section of society or region is left behind. We hope that the

new NC-Congress coalition will adopt a similar approach and work towards the holistic progress of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh," he said. Kavinder reiterated that the priority should be on development, peace, and security. He urged the newly formed government to focus on enhancing infrastructure, boosting tourism, and creating job opportunities for the youth in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that any attempt to appease disruptive elements could

undo the progress made in recent years, and it is crucial for the administration to act responsibly. The former deputy Chief Minister hoped that the new government would live up to the expectations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "The onus is now on the new government to ensure that their actions align with the aspirations of the people. We look forward to a government that puts the welfare of the citizens first, without bias or partiality," he added.

Shiv Sena state, district units dissolved, executive committee formed

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit today organized an introspection meeting regarding the results of the assembly elections, in which it was unanimously decided to dissolve the state and district units and form an executive committee. Along with this, best wishes were given to the Omar government formed in the state and a demand was made to give equal rights to Jammu.

In a meeting held under the chairmanship of state chief Manish Sahni in the party state central



office, the state and district units have been dissolved with immediate effect as per the instructed of the party high command. Along with this, an 11-member executive committee has been formed. On the recommendations of this committee,

the state and district units will soon be reorganized and candidates for the upcoming local body and panchayat elections will be selected. Sahni, while wishing the Omar government in the state, demanded to increase mutual brotherhood in both Jammu and Kash-

mir divisions and to give equal rights to Jammu. Meenakshi Chhibber, Baby Kaul, Vikas Bakshi, Sanjeev Kohli, Balwant Singh, Jai Bharat, Rajesh Jandial, Dr. Bharat Gupta, Raj Singh, Malik Bashir, Geeta Lakhotra have been included in the executive committee.

Discussion held between CEC Tashi Gyalson and Delegation from Traditional Archery Society of India

Top News Report

LEH, Oct 16: Chairman/CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson, LAHDC Leh was called upon by a delegation from the Traditional Archery Society of India led by former CEC, Patron Rigzin Spalbar, with President Tsering Angchuk and other executive members.

The delegation had returned from the World Nomad Games held in Astana, Kazakhstan, where they represented India in traditional archery competitions. During the meeting, they shared their experiences and insights from the event, emphasizing the need to preserve and



promote the rich tradition of archery in India and in Ladakh. Key discussions included the need to take proactive measures to prevent the decline of this cultural heritage. The delegation highlighted the importance of develop-

ing proper archery infrastructure, including the establishment of a dedicated archery stadium at the UT level. This facility would not only accommodate local events but also enable the hosting of national and international competitions.

The delegation also held a discussion that, much like Kazakhstan, Ladakh also has the potential to become a hub for traditional archers, linking sports, culture, tourism, and tradition. They urged the council to support the development of these initiatives, which could significantly contribute to the region's cultural identity and economic growth. CEC assured the delegation of its support and willingness to enhance the archery infrastructure in Ladakh. The council will assist in taking necessary steps to promote this traditional sport, ensuring its vibrant future in the region.

LG Manoj Sinha extends greetings to NSG personnel on NSG Raising Day

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 16: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, extended his heartfelt greetings to all National Security Guard (NSG) personnel and their families on the occasion of NSG Raising Day.

In his message, he saluted the bravery and dedication of the elite force, known as the "Black Cats," and commended their unwaver-

ing commitment to safeguarding the nation. "I salute our brave NSG black cats for their commitment, dedication & selfless service to the nation. Their determination, courage and supreme sacrifice to safeguard the country from all threats are commendable," Sinha stated as per news agency KINS. The NSG, formed to combat terrorism and handle high-risk security tasks, continues to be a pillar of national security.

Delegation from Rangdum meets CEC Tashi Gyalson



Top News Report

Leh, Oct 16: Chairman/CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson, LAHDC Leh was called upon by a delegation from Rangdum. During the meeting, the delegation expressed their sincere gratitude for the recent formation of the Zans-

kar district, highlighting its significance for local governance and development. In addition to this, various other important issues of the community were also discussed. CEC Tashi Gyalson assured assistance in addressing the issues raised by the delegation.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW POONCH TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 92 of REW POONCH 2024-25 Dated:-11-10-2024 1st Call

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch, as his representative invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt/CPWD/MES for the following work under:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds
1	Construction of Playground and R/wall at Middle School Garaynak Pyl. Plera-A Block Loran Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	4.90	300	9800	30 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 21-10-2024 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
2	Construction of Ruaral Haat at Thari W.No 09 Pyl. Brachar Block Loran Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		3.44	300	6880	30 days			
3	View Point at Dharranwali Dhok Pyl. Loyal Bella Block Loran Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		2.97	200	5940	30 days			
4	Repair/Renovation of Panchayat Ghar Battalkote Pyl. Battalkote Block Loran Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		3.27	300	6540	30 days			
5	Construction of C/wall and Tiling of Prayer Ground at High School Plera Pyl. Plera-A Block Loran Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		8.82	600	17640	40 days			
6	Construction of Library at Panchayat Tantraygam Block Loran Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		7.91	500	15820	40 days			
7	Construction of B/Path C/wall from Road side, installation of gate tile work and assembling ground at High School Battalkote Pyl. Battalkote Block Loran Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		11.90	600	23800	40 days			
8	Up-gradation of PHC Chiknban Pyl. Chiknban Block Loran Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		14.85	600	29700	40 days			
9	Balance work of Panchayat Ghar Chella Pyl. Chella Block Mandi Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		7.96	500	15920	40 days			
10	Up-gradation Community Toilet Nr. Jamia Masjid Moh. Peera Pyl. Arai Peeran Block Mandi Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		3.30	300	6600	30 days			
11	Culvert at Link Road Moh. Nalla Malika W.No. 5 Pyl. Arai Malikan Block Mandi Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		1.98	200	3960	30 days			
12	Construction of Playground at Saroi W.No.05 Pyl. Attoli Block Mandi Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		2.96	200	5920	30 days			

13	Bedar Bainai Road Culvert D No. 5.25 Pyl. Rajpura Block Mandi Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25	1.77	200	3540	30 days	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	(1000 Hrs) on or after 21-10-2024 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
14	Construction of R/wall/B/wall of grave yard at Mohalla Chamber W.No. 7 Pyl. Dhara Mohra Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25	2.00	200	4000	30 days				
15	Construction of P/work Nr. Javed Iqbal Qazi Pyl. Dhara Mohra Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25	2.00	200	4000	30 days				
16	Construction of Graveyard Nr. Alaf Din Mughal S/o Mohd Din W.No. 06 Pyl. Fazlabad Upper Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25	1.50	200	3000	30 days				
17	Construction of B/Path/P/work Nr. L/o Iqbal Begum and Others Pyl. Fazlabad Lower-A Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25	2.00	200	4000	30 days				
18	Construction of B/Path/P/work at Moh. Manu wala Nr. L/o Javid and Others Pyl. Fazlabad Lower-A Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25	2.00	200	4000	30 days				
19	Repair/Renovation of Panchayat Ghar Pyl. Fazlabad Bhatir Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25	2.00	200	4000	30 days				
20	Construction/Up-gradation of Road Eidgah Islamabad to Danna Pyl. Fazlabad Bhatir Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25	2.00	200	4000	30 days				
21	Construction/Up-gradation of Road Moh.Chokidarani to Seeran Pyl. Fazlabad Bhatir Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25	4.00	300	8000	30 days				
22	Repair/Renovation of Panchayat Ghar including electric work inverter/tile work/doors/windows Pyl. Murrah Upper Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25	4.00	300	8000	30 days				
23	Construction of R/wall Near H/o Abdul Haq Pyl. Poshana-A Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25	2.50	200	5000	30 days				
24	Construction of R/wall Nr. L/o Nazir Naik Pyl. Poshana-A Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25	2.00	200	4000	30 days				
25	Construction of Toilet Complex Graveyard Nr. L/o Mohd Riaz S/o Ahmed Din Panrar Pyl. Dogran Upper Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25	2.00	200	4000	30 days				

NOTE: The Contractors registered with DDC, Poonch in reference to GOVT. Order No: 238-F of 2021.

Dated 07-09-2021 can participate upto an amount of Rs 3.00 Lacs, in local Panchayat works.

1. **The already defaulted contractors are not allowed to participate in any tendering work of REW Division Poonch.**

2. Subletting of allotted work is not allowed and will attract strict legal action, even cancellation of contract with imposition of costs and penalty etc, if any successful bidder is found involved in same at any stage.

NOTE: No PRI member shall be allowed to take part in Tendering process

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11-10-2024.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 14-10-2024 to 19-10-2024, 1855 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	14-10-2024 from 900 Hrs onwards
4	Bid Submission End Date	19-10-2024 up to 1855 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (in case of holiday, the bid shall be opened on next day)	21-10-2024 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW, Poonch
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (if only successful technical bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. **Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**

2. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website <https://www.jktenders.gov.in/> to acquaint bid submission process.

No:- XEN/REW/P/1251-60

Dated:-11-10-2024

DIP/J-5563/24

Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Wing
Poonch

EDITORIAL

New Government in
Jammu & Kashmir

The Omar Abdullah-led government in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory is marking a significant chapter in the region's political history. As the youngest Chief Minister in the history of J&K at the age of 38, Omar Abdullah's tenure was characterized by a mix of challenges and achievements in governance, social issues, and political dynamics.

Omar Abdullah is a member of the National Conference (NC), a party with deep roots in J&K's political landscape, historically known for advocating for the interests of the region's populace.

The government was formed with high hopes for improving governance, addressing issues of unemployment, and fostering a climate of peace and reconciliation.

During his earlier tenure and CM, Omar Abdullah launched several initiatives aimed at improving governance and development. One of the hallmark projects was the 'Jammu & Kashmir Urban Sector Development Investment Program', which aimed to enhance urban infrastructure in major cities. He emphasized the need for development in rural areas, advocating for better connectivity and facilities to improve the quality of life.

Omar's government also made significant strides in the field of education. The 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' was actively implemented to promote universal education. Special focus was given to improving the enrollment rates of girls in schools, with various schemes aimed at reducing dropout rates.

The recent establishment of a new government in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Union Territory marks a significant milestone in the region's political landscape. Following a period of direct central rule, the formation of this government reflects the aspirations of the people for democratic representation and effective governance.

The new government, formed after the 2024 elections, brings together a coalition of local parties, aiming to address the unique challenges faced by the region.

The elections were held in a politically charged atmosphere, with various parties promising development, stability, and a focus on the needs of the local population.

The results indicated a shift towards regional parties, reflecting the public's desire for leadership that understands the socio-political complexities of J&K.

One of the primary mandates of the new government is to prioritize development and infrastructure. Leaders have committed to revamping essential services such as education, healthcare, and public infrastructure. The government plans to implement various schemes aimed at improving connectivity, particularly in rural areas, to ensure that development reaches every corner of the Union Territory.

The new government will redress the importance of employment generation, particularly for the youth.

Given J&K's history of unrest, the new government faces the critical challenge of maintaining peace and security while addressing the genuine grievances of the people.

Social cohesion remains a vital concern in J&K. By promoting initiatives that celebrate the region's diverse cultural heritage, the government must aim to strengthen social bonds and reduce polarization.

The new government in J&K faces a complex array of challenges, from political and social unrest to economic instability. However, there are high expectations from the local populace for effective governance and accountability. The administration's success will depend on its ability to navigate these challenges while maintaining transparency and engaging with the public.

As the government embarks on this journey, the hope is that it will pave the way for a brighter future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, fostering an environment of peace, stability, and development. The commitment to addressing the unique needs of the region will be crucial in shaping its legacy in the years to come.

Son rises on the political Horizon of J&K

By: Omkar Dattatray

Mind I am not writing about the Sun of the cosmos and Sky with which you are conversant I am saying about the son Omar Abdullah who is the scion of Abdullah family who has risen to power in the JK UT as the first chief minister.

The clouds of political uncertainty have ended with the successful conduct of the Assembly polls after a long pause/gap of 10 long years. The outcome of the crucial polls has gone in favor of NC-Congress alliance with Omar Abdulla all set to become the first chief minister of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The scion of Abdullah dynasty Omar will become chief minister of J&K after the scrapping of controversial Article 370. But the chief minister Abdullah has to tread a tightrope between delivering on the assurances, commitments and promises he made in the poll manifesto and not crossing the red line or Laxman Rekha set by the centre. It was the fateful day of counting October 8, when crackers lit up the skies above the residence of Abdullah's that is 40-Gupkar Road Srinagar. The traditional and mainstream party National Conference -NC led by its president Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdulla who is the vice-president of NC have won a historical & decisive mandate surprising one and all even the NC activists and its opponents. The NC won a record 42 seats out of 51 seats it contested in the 90 member assembly of Jammu and Kashmir. The state is set for Omar who is 54 years old scion of the Abdullah clan, to assume power in J&K, thus ending political uncertainty and vacuum in the Himalayan region that is Jammu and Kashmir. The post-victory responses indicate the celebrations are mixed with a sense of foreboding and because for a reason. Now the

decks have cleared after the revocation of the presidential rule in J&K and now Omar can be sworn in any time. But the swearing in ceremony will be different from 2009 as this time he will take reins in the backdrop of different political and geographical conditions as J&K is not same as in past, it is a UT and its borders are also changed as it does not include Ladakh anymore as it is a separate UT carved from Jammu and Kashmir. Thus the erstwhile state was downgraded and bifurcated into two UT's of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in August 2019 by the Modi government. Besides, the article 370 and 35 A of the constitution giving special status and position to the state were abrogated on 5 August 2019. Thus Omar Abdullah will be a chief minister of different Jammu and Kashmir politically, constitutionally and institutionally. Omar has to tread his path of governance cautiously and carefully because any mistake can cost him dearly. He has to balance his delivery on promises made by him and his NC with the overall commitments of the GOI. In fact Omar will have to tread a tightrope, between addressing the hopes and expectations of the gullible people of Jammu and Kashmir and not crossing the red lines that is the Laxman Rekha drawn by the centre. Omar in the changed scenario cannot afford to annoy and displease the Delhi darbar. One side the new chief minister has to keep Delhi pleased and on the other side he has to keep his coalition partners in good mood. Thus his governance this time will not be easy but will be most challenging and cumbersome task. Any mis-step can cost Omar dearly and he will have to repent later. Omar has more or less to govern and function in a tailor made situation. Therefore it is good and politically wise for Omar not to take cudgels with the centre

government and take LG of the UT in confidence before embarking on governance and taking major political decisions. Omar has to maintain good and cordial relations and liaison with the LG as well as with the centre government to be seated in the coveted chair of chief minister. He cannot take the risk of taking confrontation with the centre government and he should try to sail the governance ship of Jammu and Kashmir to safe shore and destination. Omar cannot afford to be at daggers drawn with the centre government and he should not tread path like chief minister Arvind Kejriwal of Delhi who always took cudgels with the LG of the UT Delhi and the Modi government & this has badly affected governance there and the sufferers were the people of Delhi. Now Kejriwal is counseling Omar and is asking him to take the advice from him to government JK like a half state. Without going into offers of Kejriwal Omar after taking chair of chief minister should not pursue controversial issues like Article 370 and 35 A and press for their restoration as the stand of centre government and Omar Abdullah is different. So far as the issue of restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, he should not take any step in haste rest he will have to repent. GOI is committed to the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and the centre will restore statehood at the appropriate time and the UT government of NC-Congress alliance and its captain should give time to the centre government to restore and it should not be in hurry to press for the restoration of statehood. Because statehood to J&K will be restored definitely by the Modi government and NC-Congress alliance government should stop taking political mileage out of this issue concerning the people of the UT. Omar should begin his new

innings on a positive and happy note and desist from raising controversial issue just after assuming power as it may cost him dearly. Soon after getting the hint that NC-Congress alliance will win the strong mandate in the assembly elections to form the government, NC leaders expressed their view that their coalition government should have congenial relations with the centre government. But the fact remains that the ride to power and the road is bumpy as the two sides have altogether different and divergent stand on the controversial issue of article 370. The restoration of Article 370 was one of the main planks of the NC's poll promises and Omar has said that the first thing for his coalition government would be passing of the resolution in favor of the restoration of article 370. However the BJP government of the centre is most unlikely to restore Article 370 as it is their stand and ideology to abrogate controversial Article 370 and Modi government will not restore it come what may. Thus it is better for the Omar government to put it on hold and not to press for it as it has the potential of straining and souring the relations between Omar and the centre which will not be in the interest of the public of J&K. So new government of Omar should concentrate on delivering on the mundane issues concerning roads, schools, health, hygiene, price rise, employment and the like so that people will have a sigh of relief. Therefore Omar should try sincerely to provide the civic necessities to the people and not begin his innings on a negative note.

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

Why are Indian students choosing YouTube over textbooks

By: Vijay GarG

A few years ago, most students would use books as their primary source of information. But now, it seems that the default source of knowledge is YouTube. So, what could have changed in the last few years?

Let me begin with an anecdote. Vijay GarG recently asked a question related to the working of a particular equipment being used by the student to carry out an experiment in the laboratory. The student, very confidently, gave a detailed answer that was completely incorrect in that it defied basic principles of physics. Vijay GarG was a bit perplexed since an answer like this is unlikely to be based simply on the student's understanding but had to be from some book. So, I asked him which book had this explanation. After some hesitation, he sheepishly said it was from a YouTube video.

later discovered this was not an isolated case — most students were now relying on YouTube instead of books for learning. Since there is no reason to believe that the sample of students in a large university like Delhi University, catering to students from all over the country, is somehow unique, one can argue that this trend is found among students in other places, too.

Interestingly, this is a fairly recent phenomenon. A few years ago, most students would use books as their primary source of information. But now, it seems that the default source of knowledge is YouTube. So, what could

have changed in the last few years? I don't think we can know the answer for certain but there are some plausible hypotheses that we could consider in trying to understand this change. The Covid-19 pandemic forced most education to move online. This was disastrous for various reasons as far as learning was concerned. Access to a device for attending online classes and the internet bandwidth required were initial problems. Also, to be effective, online pedagogical methods need to be substantially different from chalk-and-talk teaching, and we teachers were simply not prepared for it.

Ultimately, most students did manage to get access to a smartphone simply because online instruction went on for almost two years. The fall in the cost of data because of a new entrant in the mobile phone space also played a role — since video needs high bandwidth, affordable data facilitated this transition.

This is only part of the story. What we still need to understand is why the students have not gone back to books now that online instruction has been replaced by regular teaching. The high price of books is certainly not the reason, since most students stopped buying hard copies of books a while ago. For the tenacious surfer, any book is available for free-of-cost download on the Internet. However, consulting the soft copies on their phones or laptops is also not very prevalent among students.

One reason is the change in attitudes among large sections

of the current generation of students. This Instagram generation spends a large fraction of their time viewing reels on their phones. Their attention span is, by default, limited to a few minutes. Reading, at best, is limited to posts of a few lines.

Given this preference for visual media, one can ask why students are not taking excellent online courses but instead opting for YouTube videos put out by amateurs. After all, several universities in the West have put their courses online, and these are of excellent quality and free to download. In addition, the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) offers some outstanding courses free of cost.

The problem is twofold. First, the lectures offered by universities and those on NPTEL are usually intimidating for many students. This is simply because these lectures assume a basic understanding and prior knowledge of the subject, which most students feel they lack. The courses are also rigorous and demanding of their time and attention, which they are reluctant to put in.

There is also the issue of language. This is true not just for students who haven't had their education in English, but also for those who might have been taught in English because comprehension of spoken English is challenging for many students. These students find it hard to fully understand even an offline lecture delivered in English. However, in that case, the teacher can typically explain using the

vernacular so that at least the essential concept gets through. This is not an option with online lectures.

On YouTube, you can find videos, which, if not in the vernacular, are typically delivered bilingually and in a non-intimidating manner. The students feel comfortable with the format of short videos, which they think gives them the essence of the topic. Given the popularity of such videos, the search algorithm throws them up as top results in any search, which makes them more popular, thus increasing their algorithmic ranking even further.

I tried to explain to the student taking the viva why he should use books rather than unverified content on YouTube and he listened patiently. But, from his manner, it was clear that I was wasting my time. What this paucity of sustained attention, capacity to concentrate, and low reading skills holds for our future, only time will tell. Perhaps the Twitter/Insta generation may not need these as tools like ChatGPT might be enough.

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

Inter-Division UT Level Cricket U/17 Boys tournament commences

Top News Report

KATHUA, Oct 16: The Inter-Division UT Level Cricket U/17 Boys tournament commenced today at Sports Stadium Kathua, running from October 16 to October 18, 2024. Organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports under the direction of Rajinder Singh Tara, Director General of Youth Services and Sports, J&K UT, the event showcases young talent as part of the annual sports calendar. Today's chief guest, Mangat Ram Sharma,



Chief Education Officer of Kathua, alongside the Guest of Honour, the principal of Govt Girls Higher Secondary

School Kathua, highlighted the significance of sportsmanship in their addresses. They encouraged players to embody

the true spirit of the game. DYSSO Kathua, Sunil Singh Sambyal, extended a warm welcome to the chief guests and

participants. The opening match saw Division Jammu win the toss and choose to bat first, scoring 84 runs before being bowled out in 17.1 overs. The second inning was ongoing as updates were being reported.

The tournament is being conducted under the careful supervision of DYSSO Kathua, along with other key officials including ZPEO Barnoti Pardeep Singh, Activity Incharge Dhaminder Singh Shally, and Parveen Singh Lakhapuria, along with the dedicated field staff of District Kathua.

JKBS congrats CM Omar Abdullah, Dy CM Surinder Choudhary, others on taking oath of office

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha members who joined their General Secretary R. L. Kaith at Surya Vihar here today, wholeheartedly congratulated Omar Abdullah and Surinder Choudhary on taking oath as the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Government, respectively. Members also congratulated Javed Rana, Sakina Itoo, Javed Ahmed Dar and Satish



Sharma, who took oath as Ministers in the Government. Members wished all to take the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory to a new height of progress and development under their dynamic and

decisive leadership. Members included Subedar Baldev Chand Sandhu (Retd), Havildar Des Raj Kaithi (Retd), Darshan Kumar Bussa, Tilak Raj Bussa, Jagdish Raj Kaithi and many others.

RK Uppal receives Swami Vivekananda Adarsh Ratna Award-2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: The Wellness Foundation Trust has awarded Dr. Uppal, Principal of GGS College of Management and Technology, the Swami Vivekananda Adarsh Ratna Award -2024.

As an academician and researcher, Dr. Uppal was highly regarded by the director and founder of this organization.

Dr. Uppal's outstanding contributions to education are a source of inspiration for all of us.

Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, a distinguished Emeritus Professor and acclaimed academician, currently serves as Prin-



incipal at GGS College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha.

A Research Professor at the Indian Institute of Finance, he holds the prestigious position of MTC Global Chair Professor of Banking and Finance. Born in a modest setting near Bhatinda District, Punjab, Dr. Uppal's

journey from humble beginnings to scholarly heights underscores his unwavering passion for knowledge and learning. He embarked on his academic career at D.A.V. College, Malout in 1987 as a part-time lecturer, ascending to his current eminent role through dedication and scholarly prowess.

A prolific writer and mentor, he has authored numerous scholarly works and serves as a frequent reviewer, discussant, and session chair for professional organizations. His visionary leadership and scholarly endeavors continue to inspire and shape the academic landscape in Finance.

Trikuta Nagar Traders Association felicitates Dr. Narinder Singh



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: The Trikota Nagar Traders Association, led by its President and BJP Leader Abhinav Anand, felicitated Dr. Narinder Singh, MLA of RS Pura Jammu South and National Secretary of BJP, in a special event held at RS Pura, Jammu.

The association extended their best wishes to Dr. Singh for his future endeavors, recognizing his contributions and leadership. Prominent individuals present at the event included Harveer Madaan and Rishiv Kolo Choudhary, who joined in expressing their support and good wishes for Dr. Narinder Singh.

JKAKA forms Sub-Committees for promotion of Kabaddi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: The Jammu & Kashmir Amateur Kabaddi Association (J&KAKA) has announced the formation of various sub-committees aimed at promoting Kabaddi throughout the region.

Under the leadership of General Secretary Kuldeep Kumar Gupta and President Anil Gupta, this initiative seeks to foster a sense of community within the Kabaddi family and encourage the growth of local talent, particularly in rural areas.

Recognizing the enthusiasm for Swadeshi Khel-Khel Kabaddi, the association aims to inspire local leaders—including MLAs, District Development Council members,

and Sarpanches—to support and sponsor Kabaddi teams in their respective areas, both for boys and girls.

The newly formed committees comprise experienced members who will oversee different aspects of the sport. The Technical Committee will be chaired by Ajay Gupta, with Mir Alam serving as the convener. The Referees Board will be headed by Anil Gupta, with Sanjeet Kumar as the convener. Other key committees include the Disciplinary Committee, chaired by Bhopinder Singh Tirthi, and the Constitution Committee, led by Anil Padha.

Additionally, the association has established an Anti-Doping Committee chaired by Sandeep

Singh and a Women's Commission headed by Radha Bakshi. Various other committees have also been formed to focus on specific areas such as Beach Style and Circle Style Kabaddi, as well as rules, program development, and ethics. Each committee features a chairman and a convener, ensuring experienced oversight.

This initiative is set to enhance the infrastructure and visibility of Kabaddi in Jammu and Kashmir, with a strong focus on nurturing young talent and engaging the community. The J&KAKA's efforts reflect a commitment to promoting Kabaddi as a vital sport in the region, fostering a spirit of teamwork and competition among youth.

Namish Gupta of DPS Jammu excels in inter-division UT level handball competition 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: Namish Gupta (VII-F), a student of Delhi Public School Jammu brought laurels to the school and his parents by clinching Runners-up position in Inter-Division U.T Level Handball Competition 2024 organized by the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports, J&K. The competition was held at Mini Stadium, Udhampur from 4-5 October, 2024. Namish participated in



U-14 age category and have also been qualified for the National Level Handball Competition to be held later. He had

also received participation certificate.

The esteemed management of DPS Jammu, Hon'ble President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr. Ritu Singh, Director- S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated Namish and his parents for brilliant performance in the event.

They also extended their best wishes to him for all his future endeavours.

NMOPS extends congratulations to new J&K Govt

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: National Movement For Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS) extended congratulations to Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister, and Surinder Choudhary, Deputy Chief Minister along with Council of Ministers on forming the new government in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh UT President, Hilal Ahmed Baba Chairman, Vishal Manhas Sr Vice President, Syed Muneer Husain Vice President, Dheeraj Choudhary Vice President, Mohan Singh General Secretary, Raman Sharma-Treasurer, Dr Karamjeet Singh Chief Coordinator, Tarun Gupta Provincial President in a joint

statement expressed their optimism that the newly formed government will address the long-standing demand of NPS employees to restore the old pension scheme in the Union Territory of J&K.

"We have high expectations that the new government will resolve our pending and genuine demand" they stated. "We look forward to working closely with the government to ensure the welfare of employees in Jammu and Kashmir."

"We do hope that the expectations and hope of nps employees will be the priority of new govt to ensure the old age security of nps employees who are waiting since long for the restoration of old pension scheme," they added.

Omar likely to hold first cabinet meeting tomorrow

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 16: Omar Abdullah, who was sworn in as the first Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir today, is set to convene his government's first cabinet meeting tomorrow.

The resolution calling for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood is likely to be passed unanimously during the session.

The resolution will reinforce the government's commitment to press the central government for the reinstatement of full statehood, a demand that has gained momentum across political lines since the revocation of Article 370 in 2019.

Omar Abdullah, the leader of the National Conference (NC), took

his oath as Chief Minister on Tuesday in a ceremony presided over by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Apart from the anticipated statehood resolution, the cabinet will also focus on pressing administrative issues and lay out the new government's plans.

The newly-formed government is set to review major administrative concerns. Streamlining governance, addressing public grievances, and ensuring transparency in bureaucratic processes will be top priorities.

The meeting will review ongoing development projects.

The government is expected to prioritize

improving infrastructure, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities.

The cabinet meeting marks Omar Abdullah's return to leadership after years of political uncertainty in the Jammu and Kashmir.

On the day before the crucial cabinet meeting, Omar Abdullah is also scheduled to meet with secretaries and key officers in the Civil Secretariat to discuss administrative and governance matters. These meetings are aimed at setting the tone for his government's functioning, ensuring efficient collaboration between the executive and the bureaucracy.

Short-Term Training Program on Mathematical Methods inaugurated at SMVDU

Top News Report

KATRA, Oct 16: A weeklong Short-Term training program (STTP) on Mathematical Methods inaugurated at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU).

The program is being organized by UGC-Malviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, SMVDU. During the inaugural function Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU highlighted the significance of Mathematics in various fields of Science and Engineering.

Prof. Pragati Kumar also talked about some of emerging methods in Mathematical Sciences such as fuzzy methodologies, chaos, fractals, etc., which have immediate real-time applications.

The chief guest further motivated the participants to take the advantage of this STTP in their teaching and research.

Prof. Suparn Kumar Sharma, Director, MMTTC, SMVDU addressed the participants about various programs and departments at the University, various

programs being conducted by MMTTC-SMVDU and essential requirements for getting the certification of the STTP.

Prof. Sharma has also motivated the participants for sincere and active participation for effective and mutual learning. Dr. Surender Singh, Faculty member, School of Mathematics and Coordinator of the STTP briefed the participants about the program.

Dr. Sandeep Bhogal, Assistant Professor, School of Mathematics proposed the vote of thanks. Director, MMTTC appreciated the efforts of the organizing Team of the STTP and conveyed his thanks to the administration for their support to organize this STTP.

A total of 106 Faculty Members from 25 States and UTs across India have been shortlisted out of 350 applicants. The program is aimed to focus on interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary aspects of Mathematical Methods in line with NEP 2020. Resource persons from IITs, NITs, reputed Central and State Universities have been invited to conduct sessions in

this training program of faculty members.

At the completion of STTP, the participants are expected to update their knowledge and skills for teaching and research.

Chandel addresses challenges faced by Valmiki Community

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: During the Valmiki Prakat Utsav, Raju Chandel, National President of the Rashtriya Valmiki Sena and a prominent Hindu leader, expressed deep concern over the treatment of the Valmiki community within the broader framework of Sanatan Dharma. He emphasized that Lord Valmiki's monumental contribution in composing the Ramayana predates the birth of Lord Shri Ram, highlighting that without Valmiki, the understanding of Sanatan Dharma and the significance of Lord Ram might have been lost.

Chandel criticized the



Akhada Parishad of Sanatan Dharma for not recognizing the Akhada for the descendants of Lord Valmiki, despite acknowledging all 13 Akhadas, including that of Hijras. He questioned why the Valmiki community, which has historically faced discrimination, has not been afforded the same recognition.

Reflecting on the ongoing

marginalization since the Treta Yuga, Chandel noted that even 75 years post-independence, the Akhada Parishad has yet to acknowledge the Valmiki community. He called for the establishment of a dedicated Akhada for the Valmiki community and the appointment of a Mahamandaleshar, arguing that this recognition is vital to uphold the values of Sanatan Dharma, given that Lord Valmiki is the author of its epic Ramayana.

Chandel emphasized the longstanding commitment of the Valmiki Kshatriya community to protect Sanatan Dharma, recalling their historical role in defending Hindu

society against invasions. He pointed out that, even today, the legacy of their valor continues to instill fear in those who oppose them.

As the celebration of Lord Valmiki's legacy continues, Chandel lamented that while the current Bharatiya Janata Party government claims to prioritize Dalit and backward communities, the Akhada Parishad, seen as the supreme council of Sanatan Dharma, has not addressed the needs of the Valmiki society. His statements call for greater acknowledgment and support for the Valmiki community within the religious and social fabric of India.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
Notice Inviting Tender	
Sr DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 08.11.2024 at 15:00 Hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.	
S.N. 1. Tender No. : 613-TRD-FZR-2024-25	
Name of work : Comprehensive Maintenance Contract for various types of 04-Wheeler and 8-Wheeler Tower Wagons over Ferozpur division for a period of Three years.	
App. Cost (Rs.) : 5,24,98,943.00	
Cost of Tender form (Rs.) : NIL	
Date & time for submission of tender : Upto 08.11.2024, 15:00 Hrs.	
Earliest Money # (Rs.) : 4,12,500/-	
Completion Period : Thirty Six (36) Months	
Opening of tender : 08.11.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.	
Website Particulars : www.irpops.gov.in	
Similar Nature of Work : OEM and their authorized dealers. OR Manufacturer of Towers Wagons OR Five Years Experience in Repair / Overhauling of Engines & Transmission of same capacity and above. (Ref: S.No.2.4 of Pr. CEENR's Letter No. 14-Elect/Pty/Similar Nature of Work, dated 24.09.2012).	
S.N. 2. Tender No. : 614-TRD-FZR-2024-25	
Name of work : Outsourcing of maintenance activities for PSI & OHE assets of TRD depots at Ferozpur (FZR), Fazilka (FKA) and Kotkapura (KOP) in the jurisdiction of DEE/TRD/FZR over Ferozpur division for 02 years.	
App. Cost (Rs.) : 2,22,92,189.00	
Cost of Tender form (Rs.) : NIL	
Date & time for submission of tender : Upto 08.11.2024, 15:00 Hrs.	
Earliest Money # (Rs.) : 2,61,500/-	
Completion Period : Twenty Four (24) Months	
Opening of tender : 08.11.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.	
Website Particulars : www.irpops.gov.in	
Similar Nature of Work : Maintenance / Repairs / Rehabilitation / Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 50Hz, single phase 25KV AC OHE. OR Maintenance / Repairs / Rehabilitation / Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 50 Hz, single phase 25KV AC Traction Sub-stations / Switching Sub-stations. OR Repairs / Maintenance / Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of Sub-station of 132KV or higher voltage. (Ref: PSI Works S.No.2.2 of Pr. CEENR's Letter No. 161-Elect/TRD/199/Pl. I, dated 29.07.2021).	
Note: # Tenderer(s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through equipment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.	
No. : 613 & 614-TRD-FZR-2024-25	Dated: 15.10.2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

Rannvijay Singha, Prince Narula, Neha Dhupia and Elvish Yadav were in Chandigarh to audition for MTV Roadies

Every new season of MTV Roadies is a rite de passage for Chandigarh. The garh of one of the most popular reality shows of the country, Roadies, now in its 20th season, stepped into Chandigarh, bringing along Rannvijay Singha, Prince Narula, Neha Dhupia and Elvish Yadav. The new season is going to be a fun, eclectic mix. The show host Rannvijay was dressed in a black kurta pyjama and twinned with the glamorous Neha Dhupia. Prince rocked in a white shirt and beige jacket, and, Elvish, though remained aloof in the cacophony that surrounded the stars, managed to catch the eye in yellow jacket and yellow shoes combo!

The four, in trinity for MTV Roadies Double Cross auditions, sure knew how to make the most of the given situation. As the scheduled press conference at Panchkula was rescheduled to Dhaba-7, Chandigarh at the very last minute, the team Roadies and their staff spread around — Rannvijay took the cubicle to give quick interviews, Prince and his team perched on a truck and gave bytes, Neha took one corner and Elvish another. Between makeup touches and harsh lights, they echoed the same sentiment — the show must go on.

In its 20th season, the



show saw the return of Rannvijay and Neha after four years. The two, who have associated with the show for the longest time, brought a fresh perspective this time around. "The auditions are now a well-oiled machinery. There are no right or wrong answers, but how a contestant expresses himself or herself is what we look for," opened up Rannvijay, the winner of Season 1. Reality shows are often accused of being scripted! Rannvijay put such rumours to rest, "What you see on the show — aggressive behaviour or exaggerated reactions is the result of contestants being put under pressure. Had they been such good actors, they wouldn't be working with us."

Neha is back after the birth of her second child. "Over the years, I have grown and that is going to reflect in my game," said the much-loved gang leader.

Prince adores Rannvijay. "I find inspiration in him," he shared. All

three of them looked fitter and fabulous. Rannvijay revealed, "I have two children, so does Neha. Prince is going to be a father soon. My idea is to defeat my children in all games. Prince and Neha are equally passionate about fitness."

The talk veered from physical health to mental, and trio talked about the positive use of the social media platforms. "Anybody making, editing, putting content on social media does a lot of work and we must respect that," said Rannvijay. Prince chimed in, "I recently saw a video with a woman in ghonghat, and people had posted vile comments on it. You don't know in what circumstance, with what resources has one shot and uploaded; if you don't like something, move ahead please." Neha added, "Social media offers a huge platform to showcase one's skills, use it to bring a positive change in one's life."

As they talked about Roadies and everything else under the sun, Elvish in a corner sat and maintained his composure while Rannvijay played the protective mentor. "Elvish with his huge army brings a different game. He has his way of approaching life and the tasks, and I am sure he will add to the fun."

The second season of Bigg Boss OTT winner and YouTuber Elvish Yadav is going to be the fourth gang leader and competing against Prince, Neha and Rhea Chakraborty. "I haven't done any preparation. I will observe the process at the personal interviews."

Calling himself an artiste, Elvish is all set to make the most of every opportunity that came his way. "I am open to chances and adventure. I respect people who think before they act. That's wise. But I am not one-step forward, two-steps backwards kind of person. I go with my instinct." As much love

that has come his way, so have brickbats. "My mantra is to go snooze when its negative time on my watch, wake up and eat when it's positive."

Looking for honesty in his team, Elvish along with others would be auditioning in Hyderabad and Pune next. 'Stay true to your character'... is one tip that veteran Rannvijay doles out to the Roadies aspirants...

Elvish engages with fans at PU

Elvish was in Panjab University, Chandigarh, on Monday to interact with his fans at the Student Centre. Known for his entertaining YouTube content and colossal fan-base, Elvish captivated the crowd, urging students to join his gang for the upcoming MTV Roadies Double Cross auditions. Elvish was greeted with high energy as Rotaractors from the Rotaract Club SD College and Rotaract Club Chandigarh Himalayan performed a flash mob, adding to the excitement. Elvish, who hails from Wazirabad, Gurugram, first gained popularity through his humorous videos and later soared to new heights after winning Bigg Boss OTT 2. In addition to his digital fame, he has appeared in popular music videos like Hum Toh Deewane, Bolero, and Rao Sahab Rollin.

'I am reminded of the fragility of my body:' Zeenat Aman mulls over human relationships after fall on set



Yesteryear diva Zeenat Aman on Tuesday morning said that she is contemplating human relationships and also revealed that she had a fall on set, which had left her with purple bruises.

Zeenat took to Instagram, where she shared a monochrome picture of herself dressed in an off shoulder outfit and glasses.

Alongside the image, she wrote: "I am contemplating human relationships this morning.

When one is young the years ahead stretch out in an endlessly forking road of possibilities. Old age seems a distant, near mythical destination."

"Then one morning you wake up groggy with creaking joints, and you realise you're here. That it was never a long journey, youth just made you perceive it to be so. That on a planet that is 4.5 billion years old you have snatched a fleeting moment of consciousness. Now you're

old and there's no going back."

The actress talked about a life well-lived.

"And what is there to show for a life well-lived? Surely it cannot be the frivolous pursuit of clothes or electronics or money or what have you. Yes, these can occupy and enable our lives to an extent, but what a tragedy if they were to define them."

"The only measure of meaning I can find is in the weight of the relationships we nurture. To have evoked love, beauty, camaraderie, gratitude, compassion, tenderness. And in turn to have these invoked in oneself."

She then urged to build bridges and grant forgiveness wherever it is needed.

"Life is short. Take it from an old lady. Build your bridges, offer your apologies, speak your gratitude, express your love, grant forgiveness where it's due..."

The actress said that she fell on a set and got bruises on her skin.

"I fell while on set on Sunday evening, and there are purple bruises blooming on my skin. I am reminded of the fragility of my body, and thus this meditation. Have a beautiful Tuesday, everyone. And I welcome you to share your story of proffering or accepting a deep apology in the comments. It is an under-rated act."

Rashmika Mandanna to promote cyber safety

Rashmika Mandanna, who fell victim to a deepfake video earlier this year, has been appointed as the National Ambassador for the promotion of cyber safety.

The actress has been appointed by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre of the Ministry of Home Affairs. She said as someone who has experienced this, she was dedicated to raising awareness about these issues. Rashmika said in a statement, "Cybercrime is a dangerous and pervasive threat that affects individuals, businesses and communities worldwide. As someone who has experienced this, I am dedicated to raising awareness about these issues and promoting the message of cyber safety to drive positive change. It is crucial that we come together to combat these threats



and protect our digital spaces."

Rashmika will spearhead nationwide cyber awareness campaigns aimed at educating the public on various cybercrime threats, including online fraud, deepfake videos, cyber bullying, and malicious content.

The actress' deepfake video started a conversation on the inappropriate use of technology, prompting numerous celebrities to voice their concerns.

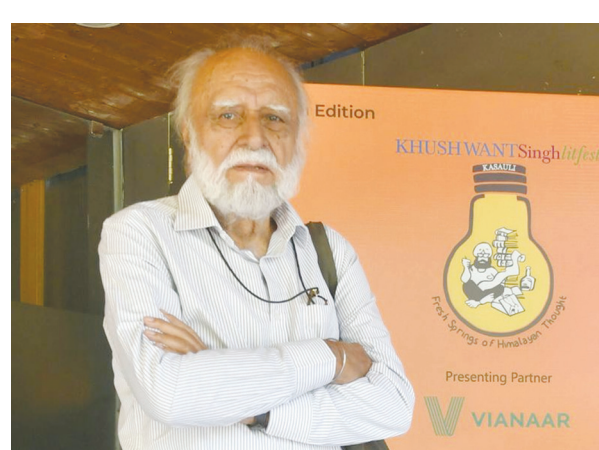
In a journey spanning over eight years, Rashmika gained recognition with Pushpa: The Rise.

The 13th edition of the three-day Khushwant Singh Literature Festival takes off in Kasauli on October 18

Thirteen is not often a number cherished. At times, it is! As the 13th edition of the three-day Khushwant Singh Literature Festival (KSLF) prepares to roll from October 18, it's time once again for the Kasauli Hills to imbibe words of wisdom, reverberate each thought and imbue in the spirit of wise voices from across the country.

Amid the serene and tranquil environs, a bevy of litterateurs, cultural doyens, thought leaders and men of distinction, including William Dalrymple, Imtiaz Ali, L. Subramaniam, Amitabh Kant, Anindya Roy, Devdutt Pattanaik and Manish Tiwari, are set to exchange views, spawn ideas.

As the Chandigarh Press Club on Tuesday, during the announcement of the festival, the director of KSLF, Rahul



Singh, son of renowned author Khushwant Singh, jogged down memory lane as he shared, "I have fond memories of the Press Club. I once served as the president here in the years gone by and am happy to announce this year's festival at this place. It is a grand celebration of recent books, a tribute to our music and much more. The festival has gone on for 13 long years, even

online during the pandemic, and that itself is testimony enough to our efforts."

The theme of this year's festival, Resilience and Renewal, is intended to resonate deeply with the times we live in. "The last few years, as we all know, have been a tribute to the enduring human spirit, its ability to adapt, overcome and flourish among challenges. We are here to celebrate the

same," he said.

Literature, like life, is an evolving journey. "Whether it is through poetry, storytelling or debate, resilience finds its way into our narrative, offering inspiration that we all need. The KSLF is a beacon of optimism. In the theme, there is an element of abiding hope, as we take up a host of issues, including our defence forces, ecology, girl child education and secularism," he added.

However, Singh rued the fact that representatives from across the border, Pakistan, are no longer a part of the proceedings, "There are some issues that prevail, but we need to build bridges between nations. Across the globe, there is instability. Dialogue and discussion is the way ahead. In inclusivity lies the key to a future filled

with hope. Hatred is not good, communities need to stick together; divisiveness and polarisation will never help." Promising that Hindi and Punjabi languages will be an integral part of the Festival in the times to come, he said, "Diverse languages of India need to be talked about, cherished. We will focus on it in the future."

Not forgetting to thank the Vianaar Group, which is into construction of eco-friendly homes, and will be an integral part of the Festival this time around, he shared, "The Vianaar Group, through its representative Sheetal Chadha, has come out in big support and that is so heartening. Their philosophy is in tune with the green festival we are hosting this time." Time for some more wise words!

Bhumika Chawla recalls being replaced by Kareena Kapoor in 'Jab We Met'

'Only felt bad once and then never again because I just moved on,' the actress said

Bhumika Chawla, best known for her role as Nirjara in Salman Khan's blockbuster film 'Tere Naam,' once spoke about being replaced in the films 'Jab We Met' and 'Munna Bhai MBBS'.

In an interview with RJ Siddharth Kannan, the actress shared that the only time she felt disappointed was when Kareena Kapoor replaced her in Imtiaz Ali's movie 'Jab We Met.' Bhumika also revealed

that she was replaced by Gracy Singh in the Sanjay Dutt-led project 'Munna Bhai MBBS.'

Bhumika said, "The only time I felt bad was when I signed Jab We Met and it didn't happen. I was the first one, Bobby (Deol) and me, when it was called Train. Then, it was Shahid (Kapoor) and me, and then Shahid and Ayesha (Takia), and then Shahid and Kareena (Kapoor). That's how things happened but it's okay. I only felt bad once



and then never again because I just moved on. I don't think much about it."

She added, "I had signed up for Munna Bhai MBBS but it didn't happen. Kannathil Muthamittal with Mani (Ratnam) sir didn't happen."

She also shared details of her conversation with Rajkumar Hirani, where he reassured her that her replacement wasn't due to any mistakes on her part.

He explained that decisions like these are common in the entertainment industry and often happen for various reasons beyond the actor's control.

Bhumika is known for her work across multiple film industries, including Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam cinema.

She gained widespread recognition for her performance in 'Tere Naam,' which remains one of her most iconic performances.

In 2008, Bhumika made her Punjabi film debut, starring opposite Gurdas Maan in 'Yaariyan.' Shortly after, she ventured into Malayalam cinema, making her debut alongside Mohanlal in the film 'Bhramaram.' She made a comeback with the 2023 film 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan,' where she played a supporting role. This film reunited her with Salman Khan after their iconic collaboration in 'Tere Naam.'

PM Modi renews his membership as BJP's first active member

NEW DELHI, Oct 16 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday renewed his membership as the first active member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"Adding momentum to our endeavour of making a Viksit Bharat! As a @BJP4India Karyakarta, proud to become the first Sakriya Sadasya and launch the Sakriya Sadasyata Abhiyan today in the presence of our national President, Shri @JPNadda Ji. This is a movement which will further strengthen our Party at the grassroots and ensure effective contribution of our Party Karyakartas for national progress. In order to be an Active Member, a Karyakarta has to register 50 members either at a single booth or in a Vidhan Sabha seat. Such Karyakartas will be eligible to contest elections for a Mandal Committee and above. At the same time, they will get many opportuni-



ties to work for the party in the times to come," PM Modi posted on X.

On September 2, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the BJP's 2024 membership drive 'Sanghatan Parva, Sadasyata Abhiyan 2024' by renewing his membership and urging party workers to make special efforts to connect with the youth.

PM Modi said that the membership drive and the organi-

zational structure that will be established during this period will coincide with the implementation of 33 per cent reservation in legislative assemblies and Parliament. He said the BJP is the only political party that is following the democratic process properly. He also said the BJP is also expanding its work and strives to improve to live up to the expectations of the people.

On the first day, 47 Lakh mem-

bers were registered. In the 1st phase, from 2 September - 25 September, 6 crore members were registered exhibiting the reach of the Party & people's faith in the Party and the leadership.

According to party sources, In the first phase, Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh registered more than 1 crore members and Gujarat & Assam enrolled 85 Lakh and 50 Lakh members respectively. Smaller states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh & Tripura have been maintaining good speed in enrolling members source.

Parliamentary Constituencies, Assembly Constituencies, Zilas, and Mandals that are lagging will be prioritized in the second phase of 'Sadasyata Abhiyan,' scheduled from October 1-15. The focus will be on ensuring 'Sadasyata enrollment' in every Shakti Kendra and Booth through detailed outreach.

Could've died if insulin was not given to me in jail: Arvind Kejriwal jabs BJP



NEW DELHI, Oct 16 (Agencies): AAP national convenor and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday accused the BJP of stalling work in Delhi in the past 10 years and that a conspiracy was hatched against him to kill him by denying insulin to him while he was in jail.

"My sugar level is high and I have to take four insulin injections daily. They (BJP) put me in jail. My kidneys would have been damaged and I could have died due to lack of insulin. Despite their conspiracies, I was able to come out of jail with your blessings," he said at the party's public outreach programme.

A controversy broke out in April when Kejriwal, a diabetic patient, who was in jail in the liquor policy case, had alleged that he was being denied insulin. The AAP took forward Kejriwal's charge, saying he was being pushed towards a "slow death". However, the Bihar Jail authorities denied AAP's claims and said he was given insulin from time to time.

During the rally today, Kejriwal, who resigned last month after coming out of jail after six

months, alleged the BJP had sent him to prison to stop the development work that his government had undertaken in the past 10 years.

"In the past 10 years, they tried to halt many projects (in Delhi) through the Lt Governor. But, I did not let any of your work stop. I am educated, and I have previously been an officer. So, I know how to run the government and how official work should be carried out," he said.

Kejriwal asserted that the people in BJP-ruled states were questioning why development work was not being done like how it happened in Delhi under his tenure.

"Why do they want to stop the work in Delhi? I have done such work in Delhi which has never been done in the country till date. They have governments in 22 states. They are not able to replicate the work done in Delhi. The people there have now started asking them why work is not being done. They do not have any answer to this," he said.

"After our victory in Punjab, they started thinking that if the work in Delhi is not stopped soon, their shops will be closed throughout the country and AAP

will come to power," he added.

Kejriwal said he had not done any corruption and asserted he was sent to jail as he was doing work for the people in Delhi.

"Everyone knows that I have not done any corruption. Kejriwal cannot do corruption. Then why did they arrest me? This is because they wanted to stop the work that I have been doing for you in Delhi and the facilities that I am providing you with," he claimed.

Accusing the BJP of stopping development work when he was in jail, Kejriwal said the AAP government resumed work on repairing broken roads, cleaning drains and ensuring uninterrupted water supply after he was out on bail.

"Now, they have made a plan to come to power and stop all the work in Delhi. Now, the matter is in your hands. If you vote for them and make them win, they will stop the free electricity scheme, power cuts will make a return and government schools and hospitals will be neglected before our government came to power," the Chief Minister said.

Meanwhile, Kejriwal wrote a letter to the Delhi voters explaining the reasons why he resigned. AAP workers will distribute the letter to households across 70 constituencies till October 29.

Delhi, ruled by AAP since 2015, is likely to hold Assembly polls early next year.

Akasa Air, IndiGo flights get bomb threats, 12th such incident in 3 days

BENGALURU/NEW DELHI, Oct 16 (Agencies): Two flights - one from Akasa Air and IndiGo - received bomb threats, which later turned out to be hoax calls on Wednesday. This is the 12th such incident in the past three days.

Earlier, a Delhi-bound IndiGo flight from Mumbai was diverted to Ahmedabad after it received a hoax bomb threat via social media. The flight carrying nearly 200 passengers and crew had taken off from Mumbai on Tuesday night. The threat was confirmed as a hoax on Wednesday.

Today, a Bengaluru-bound Akasa Air was forced to return to Delhi after it received a bomb threat. Flight QP1335, carrying 184 passengers, took off from Delhi and an emergency was

declared at 1:15 pm.

The plane then made an emergency landing at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in the national capital. Later, the threat too turned out to be a hoax. In a statement, Akasa Air said the flight was taken to an isolation bay after landing and passengers were deplaned safely, provided refreshments and given regular updates.

"Akasa Air flight QP 1335, flying from Delhi to Bengaluru on October 16, 2024, and carrying 174 passengers, three infants and seven crew members on board, received a security alert. The Akasa Air Emergency Response teams monitored the situation to ensure all support was provided to the operating teams and information was transparently disseminated

to relevant stakeholders," an Akasa Air spokesperson said.

"The Captain followed all required emergency procedures, diverted the flight back to Delhi and landed safely at Indira Gandhi International Airport at 1:48 pm," it added.

"According to the prescribed safety and security procedures, the aircraft was taken to an isolation bay upon landing. All passengers were deplaned at 1:57 pm, in coordination with the local authorities who undertook the necessary safety and security checks," the company said.

"The Akasa Air teams are on the ground and prepared to assist all passengers to ensure their safety and comfort, including providing refreshments and regular updates through the process," the spokesperson further

said.

On Tuesday, a Delhi-Chicago Air India flight, Jaipur-Bengaluru Air India Express, Dammam-Lucknow IndiGo flight, Darbhanga-Mumbai SpiceJet flight, Siliguri-Bengaluru Akasa Air flight, Alliance Air Amritsar-Dehradun-Delhi flight and Air India Express flight from Madurai to Singapore were the seven flights that got bomb threats.

On Monday, two IndiGo flights and an Air India flight got similar hoax bomb threats. These were Mumbai-New York Air India flight, Muscat-bound IndiGo flight and another IndiGo flight heading to Jeddah.

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has been working with cybersecurity agencies and police to trace the culprits behind the threats.

RG Kar stir: Junior doctors fast-unto-death enters 12th day

KOLKATA, Oct 16 (Agencies): Agitating junior doctors continued their fast-unto-death for the 12th consecutive day on Wednesday demanding justice for the deceased woman colleague of Kar Medical College and Hospital and workplace security.

Sourav Dutta of North Bengal Medical College and Hospital, fasting since October 5 was hospitalised on Tuesday evening and is being treated at the CCU of the hospital in Jalpaiguri while Spanand Chowdhury and Rumelika Kumar joined the hunger strike on Tuesday.

Claiming that Tuesday's 'Droher Carnival' was "successful" in bringing more people, from all walks of life, together to match their voice to demand for justice besides safety and security for them, junior medics on Wednesday opined to increase the heat of their ongoing protest.

"Yesterday the world saw how people are keen on getting justice. We are happy to see that so many people especially common man are with us for this noble cause this is giving us the zeal to keep on with our fight. We will make it stronger from now on to make the administration realise that we are not out of energy," Debashish Halder, one of the agitating doctors told agency.

The health conditions of the other medics, who are on fast-unto-death, were also deteriorating, he said.

"We are keeping things ready to address the situation if anyone falls more sick. We are ready to give life for our colleagues," he added.

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

Their other demands

include the establishment of a centralised referral system for all hospitals and medical colleges in the state, the implementation of a bed vacancy monitoring system, and formation of task forces to ensure essential provisions for CCTV, on-call rooms, and washrooms at their workplaces.

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

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

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

Centre hands over security of nine 'high-risk' VIPs to CRPF, removes commandos

NEW DELHI, Oct 16 (Agencies): The Union government has ordered the complete withdrawal of the counter-terrorist commando force NSG from VIP security duties and handing over its nine "high-risk" VIPs to the CRPF by the next month, official sources said Wednesday.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has also sanctioned a fresh battalion of specially trained personnel, recently withdrawn from Parliament security duties, to be attached to the CRPF VIP security wing.

Sources said the protection of nine 'Z plus' category VIPs being guarded by the 'black cat' commandos of the National Security Guard (NSG) -- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, his predecessor and BSP supreme Mayawati, Union defence minister Rajnath Singh, veteran BJP leader and former deputy prime minister L

K Advani, Union shipping minister Sarbananda Sonowal, BJP leader and ex Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) president Ghulam Nabi Azad, National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu - will now be guarded by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

The transfer of duties between the two forces under the MHA is expected to be completed within a month, they said.

The CRPF, which has six VIP security battalions, has been asked to absorb a seventh battalion for this purpose. The fresh battalion is the one that used to guard the Parliament till a few months back. After a security breach that took place last year, the

Parliament security was handed over to the CISF from the CRPF, a senior officer told agency.

As part of the taking over the new task, a team of Andhra Pradesh Police was in Delhi recently for the change of its chief minister's security from the NSG to the CRPF, the sources said.

Two among these nine VIPs will also have the advanced security liaison (ASL) protocol being undertaken by the CRPF -- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and UP Chief Minister Adityanath, as per the sources.

ASL involves an advance reconnaissance of the location to be visited by the VIP. The CRPF undertakes such a protocol for five of its VIPs including Home Minister Amit Shah, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and three Gandhi family Congress leaders.

The plan to relieve

NSG from VIP security tasks has been in the making since 2012, when NSG commandos foresaw an event where simultaneous terror attacks could be witnessed at one time on multiple centres in the country and the commandos would have to be rushed in different directions.

Agency had reported in January 2020, that after the removal of the SPG (special protection group) from the Gandhi family -- Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra -- a committee of the MHA had decided to withdraw NSG from VIP security tasks.

The Union government has decided to "restructure" the NSG and use its manpower to raise and station 'strike teams' of commandos in some high-risk areas like near the Ram temple in Ayodhya and around some critical assets located in

the southern part of the country.

Withdrawal of the NSG from VIP security, once done by November, will happen after over two decades since the 'black cat' commandos were drafted in this duty, a task not originally charted for it when the force was conceptualised and raised in 1984.

The NSG is celebrating its 40th raising day on Wednesday.

The Union government "is of the view" that the NSG should concentrate on its original charter of handling specific tasks of counter-terrorist and counter-hijack operations and that the task of securing high-risk VIPs was proving to be a "burden" on its limited and specialist capabilities.

Around 450 'black cat' commandos are expected to be freed once NSG is withdrawn from VIP security duties, the sources had said.

Five workers die due to asphyxiation while cleaning tank at agrotech firm in Gujarat

BHUJ, Oct 16 (Agencies): Five workers, all in their 30s, died due to asphyxiation while cleaning a sludge tank at an agrotech company in Gujarat's Kutch district in the early hours of Wednesday, police said.

The incident occurred around 1 am when the workers were cleaning the effluent treatment plant of the company, Kutch (East) Super-

intendent of Police Sagar Bagmar said.

"When a worker entered a tank to remove sludge, he fell unconscious.

Two other workers rushed inside the tank to rescue him, but they also fainted. Two more followed suit, and all five died," Bagmar said.

A case of accidental death has

been registered at Kandla police station and a probe is underway, he said.

A Kandla police station official said that the accident occurred at 'Emami Agrotech', a firm engaged in the production of edible oil and biodiesel. Police have identified the victims as Sidharth Tiwari, Ajmat Khan, Ashish Gupta, Ashish Kumar, and Sanjay Thakur.

Man ends life days after assault for 'stalking' girl; abetment case registered

THANE, Oct 16 (Agencies): The Government Railway Police in Maharashtra's Thane district have registered a case against one individual and unspecified others for abetting the suicide of a man, an official said on Wednesday.

One Roshan Patel of Palghar district was run over by a goods train going towards JNPT in Thane district on September 24, following



which police launched a probe, he said.

GRP senior inspector Kiran Undre of Dombivili railway police station

said that days before his death, Patel was thrashed in his locality by some people who accused him of stalking a girl. Since then, he had been depressed, the official said.

Police have booked one Shiva of Chinchoti in Palghar district and some other unidentified persons for pushing Patel to take the extreme step, he added.

EAM Jaishankar flays terrorism and extremism, advocates for UNSC reform at SCO summit in Pakistan

Jaishankar emphasised that trust is crucial for cooperation, stating that SCO member nations can greatly benefit if the grouping advances collectively, based on mutual respect and sovereign equality.

ISLAMABAD, Oct 16 (Agencies): In a thinly veiled message to Pakistan, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Wednesday stated that cooperation in areas like trade, energy, and connectivity is unlikely to flourish if activities across borders are characterized by terrorism, extremism, and separatism.

Leading the Indian delegation at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) summit in Islamabad, which was chaired by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Jaishankar emphasized the importance of trust in fostering cooperation among SCO member nations.

He asserted, "trust is key for cooperation, and the SCO member nations can benefit immensely if the grouping moves ahead collectively."

Jaishankar underlined that cooperation must be based on mutual respect and sovereign equality, recognizing the territorial integrity and sovereignty of nations. He highlighted the essence of the SCO charter, which aims to strengthen mutual trust, friendship, and good neighborhood.

"If trust is lacking or cooperation inadequate, if friendship has fallen short and good neighborhood is missing somewhere, there are surely reasons to introspect and causes to address," he stated.

He added, "equally, it is only when we reaffirm our commitment most sincerely to the



Charter that we can fully realise the benefits of cooperation and integration that it envisages."

Jaishankar warned against unilateral agendas, stating, "It cannot progress if we cherry-pick global practices, especially of trade and transit," in remarks seen as an indirect reference to China's assertive behaviour on key issues. He also reiterated that cooperation must be built on genuine partnerships.

Addressing the need for UNSC reform, Jaishankar emphasised that "comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council, both in the permanent and non-permanent categories, is essential."

He reminded the gathering of the agreement reached in July 2024 in Astana, recognizing that the credibility and effectiveness of the UN depend on representing developing countries through comprehensive reform.

"Similarly, in the 'Pact for the Future' which was adopted at the recent UN General Assembly, our leaders have agreed

to reform the Security Council, to make it more representative, inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic and accountable. The SCO must be in the lead of advocating such change, not hold back on a matter of such importance," the EAM said, reinforcing the need for a more inclusive Security Council.

Jaishankar also referred to various global challenges, stating, "We meet at a difficult time in world affairs. Two major conflicts are underway, each with its own global repercussions. The Covid pandemic has left many in the developing world deeply devastated."

He also raised concerns over the global debt crisis, asserting, "Debt is a serious concern, even as the world falls behind in achieving SDG targets." He pointed out that while technology holds great promise, it also presents a host of challenges that require attention.

During his speech Jaishankar

asserted that "it is axiomatic that development and growth require peace and stability," stressing that activities across borders characterized by terrorism and extremism are detrimental to trade, energy flows, and connectivity.

Highlighting India's global initiatives, Jaishankar stated: "From an Indian perspective, our own global initiatives and national endeavours are also strongly relevant for the SCO. The International Solar Alliance promotes renewable energy, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure prepares us for climate events, and Mission LiFE advocates a sustainable lifestyle. The Global Biofuel Alliance recognizes the task of energy transition. The International Big Cat Alliance protects our bio-diversity. At home, we have demonstrated the value of digital public infrastructure, just as we have shown the impact of women-led development"

Notably, the SCO grouping comprises of China, India, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Belarus, with 16 more countries affiliated as observers or dialogue partners.

The group claims to represent 40% of the world's population and about 30% of its GDP, but its members have diverse political systems and even open disagreements with one another.

Pakistan, which is hosting the current summit, became a full member of the SCO at its 2017 summit in Kazakhstan.

Pakistan PM Shehbaz urges SCO members to strengthen framework for regional challenges



ISLAMABAD, Oct 16 (Agencies): Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday urged Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states to strengthen the organisation's framework to address multiple regional challenges and foster closer cooperation.

Sharif made these remarks while addressing the opening session of the 23rd meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG) of the SCO member states.

"From the esteemed platform of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, a beacon of multilateralism, I believe we not only have the potential but also the will to create a future that is more prosperous and secure for our people a future that is inclusive and reflective of the shared aspirations of all member states," he said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz highlighted, "We are at a historic moment of transition where sweeping transformations are reshaping the global social, political, economic, and security landscape."

He reaffirmed Pakistan's "commitment to regional peace, stability, enhanced connectivity, and sustainable socio-economic development."

He also emphasized that the SCO "embodies the collective voice and wishes of over 40 percent of the global population, anchored in the Shanghai spirit."

"Your presence here today underscores our shared commitment to fulfilling the aspirations of our people by ensuring collective security and enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation for the sustainable development and prosperity of the SCO region," he stated.

He called the summit a testament to the strength of ties and collaboration among the SCO's diverse nations.

"Together, we have the potential to drive socio-economic progress, enhance regional peace and stability, and improve the quality of life for our citizens," the premier said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz urged the leaders to use the SCO meeting to "exchange ideas, share

best practices, and forge concrete action plans that will benefit our economies and societies."

He expressed hope for "wonderful outcomes" from the in-depth deliberations.

"Our collaboration and joint efforts to expand academic and tourism linkages, alleviate poverty, and empower women and youth across the SCO region reflect our commitment to promoting prosperity through unity," he noted.

He recounted the successes achieved during Pakistan's chairmanship and urged for further tangible actions through cooperation in trade and the economy.

He said Afghanistan provides opportunities for trade and transit.

"A stable Afghanistan is essential for fully realizing these opportunities," he added, calling on the international community to provide humanitarian support to the country while urging the interim Afghan government to ensure its territory is not used for terrorism against its neighbors.

Shehbaz also stressed the importance of regional connectivity, noting that Pakistan supports the SCO's connectivity initiative.

He mentioned the Belt and Road Initiative, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and the North-South Initiative as critical for enhancing regional connectivity in the region.

He urged against viewing connectivity projects through "narrow political lenses" and instead with a focus on increasing regional prosperity.

Shehbaz also highlighted the issue of poverty, stating that collective efforts are needed to eradicate it.

"Poverty is not just a social issue but a moral imperative," he said, urging closer cooperation within the SCO region to address it.

He warned that it is high time to tackle the threat of climate change, which is affecting the region.

"Climate change is an existential crisis that transcends borders, and its impacts are felt universally," he said, adding that Pakistan is on the front lines of climate-related disasters,

citing the 2022 floods that affected millions of people and caused \$30 billion in losses.

He urged SCO members to prioritize climate change and take steps to mitigate its effects.

Prime Minister Shehbaz avoided direct or indirect references to bilateral issues, especially those involving India.

Earlier, the summit's agenda was unanimously adopted by the participants.

Belarusian Premier Roman Golovchenko, Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Iran's Minister for Trade, Industry, and Mines Seyyed Mohammad Atabak, Kazakh PM Olzhas Bektenov, Kyrgyz head of the cabinet of ministers Akybek Japarov, Mongolian PM Oyun-Erdene Luvsan-namsrai, Russian Premier Mikhail Mishustin, Tajik Prime Minister Qohir Rasulzoda, Turkmen Deputy Chairman Rashid Meredov, and Uzbek Premier Abdulla Aripov are participating in the summit.

Representatives from international organisations, including the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the European Economic Community, are also attending the event.

Iran's First Vice President could not travel to Pakistan due to regional issues, and the country was represented by Iran's Minister for Trade, Industry, and Mines, Seyyed Mohammad Atabak.

Security was on high alert, with over 10,000 police personnel deployed to maintain peace, supported by paramilitary Rangers and regular army troops. A local holiday has been declared in Islamabad and neighboring Rawalpindi, and Section 144 has been imposed in the twin cities to prevent protests and gatherings.

The SCO comprises China, India, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Belarus, with 16 more countries affiliated as observers or "dialogue partners."

The group claims to represent 40 percent of the world's population and about 30 percent of its GDP. However, its members have diverse political systems and open disagreements with one another.

Imran Khan's former wife Jemima Goldsmith expresses concern over his health in jail

ISLAMABAD, Oct 16 (Agencies): Jemima Goldsmith, ex-wife of jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan, on Wednesday called for his release, lifting a ban on his meetings with family and claimed that these were attempts "to silence them and all political opposition in Pakistan".

Her allegations and the appeal came as a long post on X at a time when Pakistan is hosting the Council of Heads of Government summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation on Wednesday.

Khan, 72, the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has been incarcerated in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail for over a year with multiple cases against him and conviction in some of them.

The government of Punjab province - where the jail is - on October 7 banned Khan from meeting his family members, lawyers and party leaders till October 18, citing "security concerns".

Jemima Goldsmith also alleged that for the past few years, she has been "bullied & harassed into silence by PML-N goons, including rape threats &

countless conspiracy theories". PML-N, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, is Khan's arch rival party and is leading the ruling coalition in Pakistan. Khan and his party leaders have been alleging that PML-N is taking every step possible to end PTI's existence.

An English journalist, she was married to Khan from 1995 till 2004 and they have two sons.

In her post on X, after terming the developments in last few weeks as "serious and concerning" regarding cricketer-turned-politician's treatment in prison, Jemima Goldsmith said the Pakistan authorities had stopped all visits to him by his family and his lawyers, and also postponed all court hearings.

"In addition to cutting off in-person visits, and in defiance of a court order, his weekly calls to his sons, Sulaiman and Kasim Khan, who are British and who live in London, were stopped on September 10," she wrote in the post on X.

She also alleged that the authorities have "now turned off the lights and electricity in his cell" and he is no longer allowed to leave his cell at any time; also

that the jail cook has been sent on leave and claimed that Khan is now completely isolated, "in solitary confinement, literally in the dark, with no contact with the outside world." "These actions come in the context of ongoing targeting of Imran's family, as well as his party (PTI) members and supporters in an attempt to silence them and all political opposition in Pakistan," she further alleged.

She also mentioned Imran's nephew, Hassan Niazi, a civilian, has been detained in military custody since August 2023 and more recently, his sisters, Uzma and Aleema Khan, were arrested as they made their way peacefully to a demonstration.

"As a matter of urgency, we are calling for Imran Khan's release, and for the release of his sisters and nephew as well as for his sons' contact with their father to be re-established, so that they may have assurance first-hand that he is well and not being mistreated," she said.

In another post on X soon after, she said, "I usually don't comment on Pakistani politics. I disagree with IK (Khan) on many political issues. But this



is not about politics - it's about my children's father, his human rights & international law."

She then alleged that for the past few years, she has been "bullied & harassed into silence by PML-N goons, including rape threats & countless conspiracy theories." Khan's former wife also claimed that social media is banned in Pakistan and how civilians have been abducted and anyone with a platform, who was speaking out, "is now in jail and silenced".

Two days ago, PTI leader Barrister Saif, who is the information adviser of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's chief minister from Khan's party, too had raised concerns over prohibition saying it had led to growing anxiety among his party workers and supporters.

'Age of Electricity' coming as fossil fuels set to peak: IEA

PARIS, Oct 16 (Agencies): More than half of the world's electricity will be generated by low-emission sources before 2030 but the deployment of clean energy is "far from uniform" across the globe, the International Energy Agency said Wednesday.

Demand for oil, gas and coal is still projected to peak by the end of the decade, possibly creating a surplus of fossil fuels, the IEA said in its annual World Energy Outlook.

"In energy history, we've witnessed the Age of Coal and the Age of Oil," said IEA Executive

Director Fatih Birol. "We're now moving at speed into the Age of Electricity, which will define the global energy system going forward and increasingly be based on clean sources of electricity," he said.

The report said clean energy "is entering the energy system at an unprecedented rate" with 560 gigawatts (GW) of renewables capacity added in 2023.

Almost \$2 trillion in investments are flowing into clean energy projects each year, nearly double the amount spent on fossil fuel supplies, according to the Paris-

based agency. "Together with nuclear power, which is the subject of renewed interest in many countries, low-emissions sources are set to generate more than half of the world's electricity before 2030," it said.

"Growing momentum" But the IEA noted that the deployment of clean energy "is far from uniform across technologies and countries".

The growing thirst for electricity is driven by industry, electric vehicles, air conditioning and data centres linked to the surge of artificial

intelligence. Despite the "growing momentum behind clean energy transitions", the IEA said the world was "still a long way from a trajectory aligned" with its goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

The net-zero emissions target is crucial to meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels.

The IEA report comes a month before Azerbaijan hosts the UN's annual climate conference, COP29, in Baku, from November 11 to

November 22. At COP28 in Dubai last year, nations pledged to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030. They also vowed to transition away from fossil fuels.

The IEA said renewable power generation capacity is set to rise from 4,250 GW today to nearly 10,000 GW in 2030 as costs for most clean technologies are falling.

While it falls short of the COP28 tripling target, it is "more than enough" to cover the growth in global electricity demand and "push coal-fired generation

into decline". China accounted for 60 percent of the new renewable capacity added in the world last year.

By the early 2030s, the country's solar power generation will exceed the total electricity demand of the United States today, the report found.

In many developing countries, however, "policy uncertainty and a high cost of capital are holding back clean energy projects".

'Insatiable' demand Global carbon dioxide emissions are set

to peak "imminently" but today's policies still leave the world on a path towards having a rise of 2.4C in average temperatures by 2100, the IEA warned.

"2024 showed that electricity demand is insatiable," said Dave Jones, global insights programme director at Ember, an energy think tank.

"That means global coal generation would fall less quickly than previously expected. This means the world is not yet transitioning away from fossil fuels and reducing CO2 emissions

in the energy sector," he added.

Despite a record deployment of clean energy, two-thirds of the increase in global energy demand was met by fossil fuels last year, the IEA said.

Energy-related CO2 emissions hit another record high last year.

"Renewable growth is creating an energy abundance, but this will only translate into a substantive fall in CO2 emissions if there is simultaneously a strong focus on using energy as wastefully as possible," Jones said.

Vi Showcases Power of Innovation, Technology & Connectivity at India Mobile Congress 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: On the opening day of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024, leading telecom operator Vi is unveiling how it is using advanced technologies like 5G and IoT to reshape industries and enhance everyday experiences.

This year's IMC theme 'The Future is Now' resonates deeply with Vi's emphasis to deliver immediate, technology-driven solutions that are solving today's challenges and designed to make an immediate impact. Vi's show themed 'Future

is Live' highlights how it is transforming the way people and businesses live, work, and connect with advanced technologies.

Small and medium enterprises play a vital role in India's economic growth, however, many of them lack access to digital tools for accelerating their business growth. The company is demonstrating Vi Business's 'Ready for Next' programme, launched in 2022, that bridges this gap by offering free Digital Advisory Service and has partnered with 1.6 lac MSMEs across

16 sectors since its inception. It is showcasing its Digital Maturity Index from the 'Ready For Next' MSME Growth Insights Study (Volume 2.0 2024) that helps MSMEs understand their business's digital readiness as well as provides sectoral insights.

Vi is also showcasing its remote healthcare technology solution - 'Clinic in a Bag', that allows doctors to assess and evaluate patients in real-time regardless of location, addressing the shortage of specialist manpower and equipment in remote areas,

making healthcare more accessible and affordable. With live feeds from a health camp at a village in Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh, Vi is demonstrating that with real-time diagnostic reports transmitted over Vi's high-speed network to doctors sitting in any part of the world, informed consultations can be carried out over video call. The solution is capable of performing over 30 Point of Care medical tests—including vitals, cardiac and pulmonary function, blood tests, and screenings, offering a cost-effective

alternative, with tests delivered for under Rs 250 to the millions living in Rural India for whom accessibility to a primary healthcare centre may be a challenge.

Akshaya Moondra, CEO, Vi, said, "At Vi, we're committed to harnessing the power of advanced connectivity to transform industries and improve lives. Our solutions being showcased at the IMC are designed to make a real-world impact and reflect our commitment to bring the future to life right now by creating a more connected, efficient world for all."

Time to restore full statehood to J&K on priority basis: Vivek Bali

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: Prominent political leader Vivek Bali has called for the immediate restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Bali emphasized that restoring statehood is essential for the region's development, peace, and political stability.

He reiterated the long-standing demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to regain their political rights, identity, and administrative control.

"Jammu and Kashmir has faced enough challenges in the past



few years, and now is the time to prioritize the restoration of full statehood. The people deserve their dignity, a functional democracy, and the ability to participate fully in decision-making processes," said Bali.

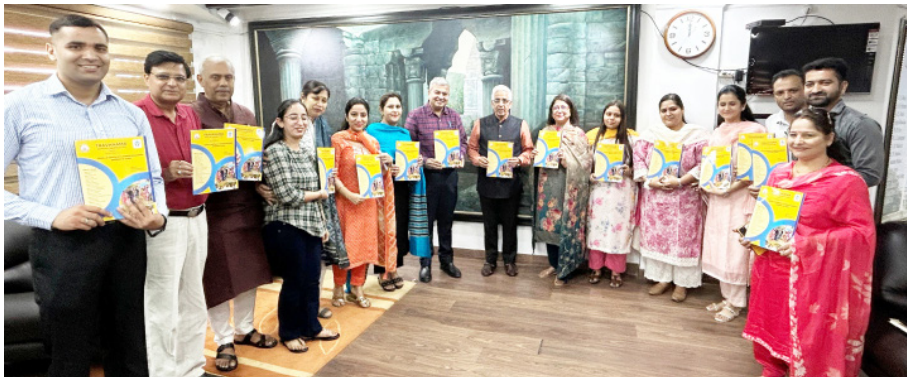
He urged the central

government to consider the aspirations of the people and take immediate steps to ensure that statehood is restored, enabling the local leadership to address the region's issues more effectively.

Bali also emphasized that the restoration of statehood will foster peace and confidence among the people, bringing a renewed sense of hope and progress to Jammu and Kashmir.

"We need this to happen on a priority basis for the future of our youth and the overall development of the region," he further said.

SHTM, JU releases 1st Edition of Travanama



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (SHTM), University of Jammu launched the first edition of its annual newsletter - Travanama. Prof. Umesh Rai, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu released the newsletter at a special ceremony held in his office.

Prof Umesh Rai lauded the efforts put in by the faculty and students of the SHTM in creating a comprehensive and informative newsletter that highlights the significant achievements, novel initiatives, and various academic activities conducted by the depart-

ment. He further encouraged the team to explore various entrepreneurial and industry oriented initiatives which benefit the students as tourism sector has immense national and regional opportunities.

Prof Alka Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Business Studies shared that SHTM through its student centric activities and practices has been able to make significant impact. She further emphasized that with the introduction of travel and tourism courses at the Under Graduate Level, which has already been approved by the Academic Council and Syndicate of University, students will be able to

leverage the opportunities in the sector.

Prof. Anil Gupta, Director, SHTM, while expressing gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor and University administration said that SHTM is committed to strengthen industry - academia linkages, upgrade curriculum as per industry expectations and also focus on experiential learning in the spirit of NEP-2020.

The event was attended by Prof Shyam Narayan Lal, Prof Garima Gupta, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Dr Suvidha Khanna. In addition, faculty members including Dr. Nikita Dogra, Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Dr. Honeyka Mahajan, Tapas Tandon, Taniya Sharma and staff including Charu Mago, Pawan Sharma and Sachin Thapa were also present.

GRP Jammu solves theft case within hours

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: The Government Railway Police (GRP) Jammu swiftly resolved a theft case, recovering four stolen mobile phones valued at Rs 5 lakh within hours of the incident.

A case has been registered under FIR No.

07/2024 at P/S GRP Kathua, and an investigation is currently underway.

The prompt action taken by the GRP underscores their commitment to maintaining safety and security in railway areas. Further updates will be provided as the investigation progresses.

Kulgam boy falls to death while pruning tree

Top News Report

KULGAM, Oct 16: A 19-year-old man died after he fell from a tree in Razloo village of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Wednesday, an Official said.

He identified the deceased as Idrees Ahmad Wani son of Abdul Rashid Wani of Razloo Kund. "Soon after the incident, the boy was immediately rushed to Qazigund hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead on arrival", he said.

ACB arrests AEE of R&B Deptt for demanding bribe of Rs 25,000

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 16: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday arrested an Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) from the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department, Sopore division, for demanding a bribe of Rs 25,000. An official told that the ACB laid a trap and caught the AEE of the R&B Department's Sopore division red-handed while demanding the bribe from a contractor of Rs 25,000. In recent years, the ACB has registered several cases and arrested numerous government officials for bribery. The public has appreciated the ACB's efforts in tackling corruption cases.

Notice

I, Kaushal Kumar Gupta owner of plot no. 120 Industrial Area Phase II, Gangyal Jammu has applied for change of activity. Objection if any may be intimated to The General Manager, DIC, Jammu.

FROM PAGE 1

J&K UT gets its first elected CM as Omar Abdullah takes oath

Centre (SKICC) were Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Mallikarjun Kharge. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, Left leaders Prakash Karat and D Raja, DMK's Kanimozhi and NCP's Supriya Sule. PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti also attended the event.

Omar Abdullah's family, including his father Farooq Abdullah, mother Molly Abdullah, his two sisters, and two sons were present on the occasion.

Abdullah was earlier unanimously elected leader of the NC Legislature Party. His first term as chief minister was from 2009 to 2014 when Jammu and Kashmir was a full-fledged state.

The National Conference won 42 out of the 90 seats in the recent elections while alliance partner Congress bagged six. Together, the two pre-poll allies hold a majority in the 95-member assembly — five members are to be nominated by the LG.

In 2019, the erstwhile state was bifurcated into the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Huge responsibility on my shoulders: J&K Dy CM Surinder Chowdhary

of Jammu region even though the task is full of challenges"

Speaking to reporters, NC minister Sakina Itoo said she will leave no stone unturned to serve the people of J&K. "People have

reposed trust in us and we have to serve them," she said. Asked what would be the first step of the new Cabinet, she said let the Cabinet meeting take place, things will be clear.

Crown of Thorns: Farooq Abdullah after Son Omar takes oath as CM

the election manifesto... It is a crown of thorns and may (almighty) Allah succeed him (Omar) and he fulfils the people's hope. This is my message," Farooq Abdullah told reporters after the oath-taking ceremony at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC).

"After statehood, our true struggle (for restoration of) Article 370 will start. Article 370 will always be our priority," Zahir Abdullah added.

Omar Abdullah heads the first elected government in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, when the erstwhile state was bifurcated into the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Statehood for J&K a priority: Kharge

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha administered the oath to Abdullah and his council of ministers, with prominent political figures in attendance, including Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, and Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

All National Conference leaders were

present to show their support for Abdullah as he took on his new responsibility.

The recent J&K Assembly elections were held in three phases on September 18, 25, and October 1, resulting in the NC and Congress securing a combined total of 48 seats, while the BJP won 29 and the PDP claimed three. Additionally, AAP's Mehraj Malik achieved a historic win, marking the party's first electoral success in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Congress not joining ministry in J&K govt as statehood promise from BJP remains unfulfilled", says JKPC Chief

Party shall continue to fight for restoration of Statehood," JKPC Chief Tariq Hameed Karra said.

"PM Modi removed Article 370 after consulting Farooq, Omar Abdullah": claims Er Rashid

of statehood, Article 370 and 35A... Omar Abdullah is running away from 370. When PM Modi abrogated Article 370, he met Farooq Abdullah 3 days before that... After the meeting, Farooq Abdullah said that nothing was going to be abrogated but it was abrogated and Farooq and Omar Abdullah were kept in a guest house. It seems as if Farooq and Omar Abdullah were on board.

"PM Modi removed Article 370 after consulting with them. All of it was a match-fix-

ing. There is no doubt that the BJP helped NC in coming to power," Rashid added.

On August 2019, the Central government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, abrogated Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

In 2005, Engineer Rashid was arrested by the Special Operations Group (SOG) in Srinagar for allegedly supporting militants and was held for three months and 17 days. He faced charges of anti-national activities and was incarcerated in Cargo, Humhama, and Raj Bagh prisons. However, the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Srinagar later dropped all charges against him on humanitarian grounds.

In August 2019, Rashid was again arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). During his incarceration, he filed his nomination for the 2024 parliamentary elections from jail and won by a margin of 204,000 votes, defeating former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

SRS congratulates new J&K Govt, urges for restoration of J&K Statehood, Darbar Move practice

statehood, a long-standing demand since the region's reorganization and downgrading to Union Territory status in 2019. He underscored that statehood is vital for ensuring political dignity and greater autonomy for the region, allowing the people to have a stronger voice in their governance.

"The reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir had led to widespread calls

for the reinstatement of statehood, with political and civil society groups from across the spectrum advocating for it," Rajiv Mahajan said.

He believed that restoring statehood would be a critical step toward addressing these concerns and restoring the democratic fabric of the region.

In addition to advocating for statehood, Mahajan also called for the reinstatement of the traditional Darbar Move practice.

"The Darbar Move, which was a biannual shifting of the administrative capital between Srinagar and Jammu, had been a hallmark of governance in the region for over a century until its abolition in 2021," he said.

Mahajan argued that the restoration of this practice is essential for maintaining regional balance, ensuring equitable attention to the needs and concerns of both the Jammu and Kashmir regions. He stressed that the Darbar Move had served as a symbol of unity, facilitating better administration and fostering a sense of inclusivity across the diverse regions of J&K.

Shri Ram Sena president urged the new government to prioritize these issues in their agenda, reaffirming the party's commitment to advocating for the rights and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mahajan concluded his statement by expressing hope that the new government would work toward addressing these longstanding demands, ensuring that the region progresses with a focus on justice, equity, and balanced development for all its citizens.

Hyundai crosses 25 per cent bids on day 2 of India IPO; eyes EV crown in US

NEW DELHI, Oct 16 (Agencies): In the same year that Hyundai Motor Group overtook Ford to reach the second position in the US EV market, which is led by Twitter-owner Elon Musk's Tesla, the Korean automaker's India unit crossed 25 per cent in bids by 2:15pm IST on the second day of its IPO. Total subscriptions hit more than 2.53 crore equity shares out of 9.97 crore shares on offer—the country's largest-ever initial public offering of Rs 27,780 crore. This includes retail investors, Non-Institutional Investors (NIIs), Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs), and employee reserved portion. Of the 4.95 crore shares available to retail individual investors (RIIs), 35 per cent



received bids.

Hyundai is expected to launch four new models in the mass-market EV sector in India, starting with Creta EV scheduled for January 2025. Other models include Instar EV to rival Tata's Punch EV, and speculations for

Grand i10 Nios EV and Venue EV. As of now, Hyundai sells its high-end EV IONIQ 5 in India.

In the US, Hyundai, Kia, and Genesis—which together form the Hyundai Motor Group—accounted for more than 10 per cent of the

EV market, with market leader Tesla slipping 50 per cent market share for the first time.

India's EV market is touted to grow to a whopping Rs 318,000 crore by 2030 due to increasing affordability, launch of mass-market EVs, rising

infrastructure, spiking fuel prices, and government support, according to a report by Grant Thornton Bharat and the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association. In September 2024, the Indian government issued new charging guidelines for EV charging stations and infrastructure, in a bid to attract more EV adoptions.

The India unit is a wholly owned unit of the global automaker Hyundai Motor Company (HMC), headquartered in Seoul, Korea. As of date, Hyundai India boasts a Credit Rating of CRISIL AAA for Packing Credit and CRISIL A1+ for Short Term Debt as per official information from the automaker's India website.

From Rs 260 to Rs 16,000: Is this Mukul Agrawal, Vijay Kedia-backed multibagger headed towards Rs 20,000?

NEW DELHI, Oct 16 (Agencies): Shares of Neuland Laboratories Ltd continued their upward move during the trading session Wednesday and a domestic brokerage firm B&K Securities continued to remain positive on the stock and see another 25 per cent upside in the multibagger stock.

The pharma player, which is also backed by Dalal Street Veterans like Vijay Kedia and Mukul Agrawal, has been a consistent performer for the investors and has zoomed about 62 times from its covid lows around Rs 260 to Rs 16,202 on Wednesday, with its total market capitalisation nearing Rs 21,000 crore mark.

Brokerage firm B&K Securities said that approval from USFDA for COBENFY (Xanomeline and Tropicium Chloride/KarXT) for Schizophrenia is a major positive for the company, which could experience substantial growth in the CMS segment as the product

scales up in the US and globally. It also expects the CMS segment to maintain healthy growth ahead.

Overall, sales have grown by 29 per cent CAGR over FY22-24, while PAT has risen 117 per cent CAGR over the same period. The stellar performance has largely been led by ramp-up of the CMS division that has grown by 65 per cent CAGR over FY22-24, said B&K Securities in note.

"The change in sales mix towards the CMS segment from 30 per cent in FY22 to 49 per cent in FY24, has led to superior profitability with EBITDA margins of 29.7 per cent in FY24. The inflection point for Neuland's CMS segment has played out after FY23 when we saw a sustainable ramp-up of top 5 molecules," it added with a 'buy' rating and a target price of Rs 20,000 on the stock.

Recently, some media reports suggested that Neuland Labs clocked

exports totaling \$27 million for September 2024, an increase of 13 times month-over-month from August's \$2 million. This news sparked a rally in the stock which pushed it about 40 per cent in the last one week.

However, the company, in an exchange filing stated that the export data does not necessarily reflect the financials of the company for any quarter. The actual shipment of the product happens as per the requirement of the customer. Among other analysts, global brokerage firm Goldman Sachs gave it a 'buy' rating but its target has already been met.

Neuland Laboratories is yet to file its shareholding pattern for September 2024 quarter. As of June quarter, Mukul Mahavir Agrawal owned 4,00,000 equity shares or 3.12 per cent stake in the company, while Vijay Kedia Kedia Securities owned 1,40,000 equity shares or 1.09 per cent stake in the company.

Diwali Picks 2024: What to buy on Muhurat Trading

MUMBAI, Oct 16 (Agencies): Domestic equity markets have delivered impressive gains to investors since Diwali 2023. The benchmark BSE Sensex has surged 25% since November 12, 2023, while the BSE Midcap and BSE Smallcap indices have jumped 49% and 47%, respectively, during the same period. Market experts attribute this strong performance to solid domestic inflows that have buoyed market sentiments. For Diwali 2024, JM Financial has released its top 10 stock picks for Samvat 2081, offering investors a guide to capitalising on the festive season and market momentum. This year's special one-hour Diwali Muhurat trading session will take place on Friday, November 1, from 6:15 PM to 7:15 PM. Let's explore the stocks that could brighten your portfolio this Diwali.

RIL's stock price has underperformed broader markets with just 5% returns in CY24YTD versus 15% return for Nifty 50. JM Financial believes that this underperformance could reverse supported by faster-than-anticipated telecom tariff hikes by telcos, recovery in retail business and positive announcements on new energy business. Earnings growth momentum to remain strong across segments and the brokerage expects 15% PAT CAGR over FY24-27E.

Power Grid Corporation of India (Target price: Rs 383)

JM Financial believes that valuation of Power Grid is reasonable at 3.1x FY26E P/BV stock offers healthy dividend yield of around 4%, low earnings risk given regulated returns, and most importantly, it sees sharp recovery in transmission capex cycle. JM Financial



expects the company to maintain a ROE of 18% during FY24-26E.

Bajaj Finance (Target price: Rs 8,552)

Bajaj Finance stock has over last 2 months witnessed a decent recovery of 20%. One of the important triggers behind this was IPO of its housing finance division recently. However, despite such a run up, there is still steam left in the stock. AUM growth of Bajaj Finance over the last 2-3 years has remained healthy at over 25% YoY levels. In Q1FY25, slight moderation was witnessed owing to the company shifting focus from unsecured loans to secured loans after RBI instructions for the entire sector with respect to unsecured loans. With festive season ahead, Q3FY25 is seasonally a good quarter in terms of AUM. On an annual basis too, JM Financial believes the company would maintain its healthy growth strategy ahead, owing to its diversified asset book.

ICICI Lombard General Insurance (Target price: Rs 2,450)

The company has a strong presence in health & motor segment owing to a strong product suite, growing retail agency and digital capabilities, deep distribution and conser-

vative underwriting and a large balance sheet, reinsurance and agility. These capabilities have made the company a leader in this large and fast growing segment. A smooth management transition after a CEO at the helm for 14 years indicates depth in leadership, visible also in consistent growth and 15% plus returns, even as it toggles segments in response to customer demand and competition.

Jindal Steel & Power (Target price: Rs 1,150)

Jindal Steel and Power (JSPL) is one of India's leading steel manufacturers with current capacity of 9.6mtpa. The company is undergoing capex to expand its crude steel production capacity by 65% to 15.9mtpa. JSPL's strategic expansion would augment its crude steel capacity by 65% to 15.9m tonnes and enrich its product mix. Also, the company is strengthening raw-material integration and increasing the share of VAPs which should aid margins. Considering its strong focus on margin expansion, JM Financial expects it to achieve Rs 15,000 EBITDA/tonne by FY26. With a 0.9x net debt/EBITDA, it has one of the strongest balance sheets among domestic peers.

National Aluminium

Company (Target price: Rs 264)

NALCO's Q2FY25 EBITDA is expected to increase by around 3 times YoY to Rs 1,200 crore supported by rise in alumina/aluminium price, lower cost and benefit of captive coal mining. FY27E EBITDA estimate of Rs 6,000 crore and 7.5 times EV/EBITDA + FY26E Net cash of Rs 3,500 crore gives us equity value of Rs 48,500 crore (Rs 264/share). At CMP of Rs 227, the stock trades at attractive valuation of 6.8 times on FY26E EBITDA and offers healthy dividend yield of 3%.

Gravita India (Target price: Rs 3,068)

Gravita India is a leading player in India's recycling industry and currently operates in three verticals i.e. lead, aluminium, plastics and has concrete plans to diversify into other verticals (steel, paper and lithium-ion batteries). The company is one of the largest lead recyclers in India and derives 82% of its EBITDA from lead recycling vertical while aluminium, plastic and turnkey projects contributed 5%, 4% and 9% of its FY24 EBITDA (Rs 343 crore).

Macrotech Developers (Target price: Rs 1,480)

Lodha is expected to

generate robust operating cash flows (OCF), as collections catch up to the growth in pre-sales (in the last 3 years). The company will generate OCF of Rs 7,000-8,000 crore on average for the next 3 years. JM Financial estimates that Lodha should have surplus cash available for deleveraging even after accounting for a consummate increase in business development investments (growth investments).

Olectra Greentech (Target price: Rs 2,200)

Olectra is one of the largest manufacturers of electric buses in India. It has establishing greenfield state-of-the-art plant in Hyderabad with capacity of 5,000 units per year and scalable to 10,000 units per year. Company has commenced partially operations for manufacturing electric buses and other EV products in the new plant. Over the next 2 financial years, ramp up will be visible. Olectra delivered 156 units of e-buses in Q1FY25, management guides for volumes to double in Q2FY25, and further over 1,000 buses in H2FY25 equating to 1,800-2,000 buses volumes for FY25 which is an annual growth of nearly 300%. For FY26E management is targeting growth of 2 times over FY25E levels, hence volumes for Olectra should grow 8 times from FY24 levels in 2 years' time.

Ashoka Buildcon (Target price: Rs 290)

The company is expected to clock a PAT CAGR of 33% over FY2024-2026E with a robust ROE of 10% in FY26E. The stock trades at 15.3x FY26E standalone EPS. JM Financial values company's EPC business at 12x September-FY26E core EPS, HAM portfolio at 1.6x P/B and other ABL assets at 0.5x P/B

New AI-based human capital management venture may come soon by IPO-bound OfBusiness co-founder Nitin Jain: Report

NEW DELHI, Oct 16 (Agencies): Nitin Jain, the co-founder and chief business officer (CBO) of OfBusiness may now launch an artificial intelligence (AI) startup for Human Capital Management (HCM) solutions, Moneycontrol reported, citing unnamed sources. HT couldn't independently verify the information.

Jain also held discussions with venture capital firms like Z47 (formerly, Matrix Partners India) for raising capital, according to the report,

which added that some of the senior leadership of OfBusiness will also put seed money into the new venture.

However, the report also quoted Jain as saying that he is very much part of OfBusiness, and will just be an investor in the venture started by a friend.

What does OfBusiness do?

Of Business, founded in 2016 by husband-wife duo Asish Mohapatra and Ruchi Kalra, along with Vasant Sridhar, Bhuvan Gupta, and Jain, is a busi-

ness-to-business (B2B) platform for companies to purchase raw materials like metals, chemicals, building components and agriculture commodities through a network of suppliers.

The SoftBank-backed startup valued at \$5 billion in its last funding round in 2021, currently competes with Tiger Global-backed InfraMarket, Accel-funded Zetwerk, and Peak XV-backed Moglix, and is aiming for a \$1 billion IPO in 8-12 months, according to the report.

Army Conducts Motivational Tour for Youth to Kargil & Drass

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 16: Vajr Division of the Indian Army organised a Capability Building Tour to Kargil to inspire and educate the youth about the nation's history and heritage and sacrifices given by Army to safeguard it. A total of 35 students accompanied by three teachers from Higher Secondary Schools of Trehgam & Drugmulla block of Kupwara district embarked on a motivational tour. The students were officially flagged off by Maj Gen K Mohan Nair, YSM, SM, GOC, 28 Infantry Division at Udaan School, Drugmulla on 16 October 2024. This program was organised to commemorate the Rajat Jayanti of Kargil Vijay Diwas wherein soldiers laid their life to safeguard Jammu & Kashmir from Western Adversary. This three day/ni tour was aimed at visit to the Kargil

War Memorial, Drass where the students were briefed about the operations undertaken by the Indian Army during the 1999 Kargil War to push out the Pakistani infiltrators.

Day one of the tour was completely focussed on visit to Kargil town & one forward locality to provide insights into operations undertaken during Operation VIJAY.

The students also visited Heritage village at Hunderman to provide glimpses of rich culture.

On the second day the students paid tribute at the central feature of the Kargil War Memorial at Drass - a wall of pink sandstone bearing a brass plaque engraved with the names of soldiers who gave their lives during Operation VIJAY.

They also visited the Captain Manoj Pandey Gallery, which honours soldiers posthumously awarded the Param Vir

Chakra for their exemplary bravery during the conflict and the Kargil museum. The students were also taken to the Tibetan market at Drass for shopping & cultural insights.

The visit left an indelible impression on the young minds, instilling in them a sense of Patriotism and admiration for the Armed Forces. The tour included a short halt at Sonamarg to provide the glimpses of natural beauty of the place.

The tour aimed at enriching the students' knowledge about the pivotal role of community members in guarding the country's borders in the unforgiving terrain of the region.

The Indian Army's initiative to organise such motivational tour reflects its commitment to nurturing youth, fostering national integration and contributing the nation building.

Mukesh Ambani vs Elon Musk: Starlink CEO Comes Out On Top In Satcom Spectrum Battle

NEW DELHI, Oct 16 (Agencies): New Delhi: In a major setback for India's richest man Mukesh Ambani, the Telecom Ministry has decided to pursue the administrative route for allocation of satellite communication spectrum, which is in line with the global trend. Ambani had requested the Indian government to go for an auction, which the Starlink CEO Elon Musk had questioned.

Notably, Musk is eyeing an entry into the Indian telecom sector with Starlink. Earlier, Musk had objected to Reliance Industries Chairman's lobbying for an auction route for spectrum allocation.

Starlink and other global initiatives like Amazon's Project Kuiper advocate for the administrative allocation of spectrum, aligning

with international standards. Musk emphasised that the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a UN agency of which India is a member, designates satellite spectrum as shared, arguing that it should not be subject to auction, recommended by

Musk, who has been a critic of auction demand, took a veiled dig at Ambani as he wrote to an X user, "I will call and ask if it would not be too much trouble to allow Starlink to compete to provide internet services to the people of India."

Ambani's Argument

Ambani, who has been pushing for an auction route for spectrum allocation, feels that it would provide a level playing field for telecom operators. Reliance Jio had

also written a letter to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) asking for a reassessment of its consultation paper that supports administrative allocation. The company urged the government to reconsider, asserting that an auction is essential to ensure fair competition.

"We have requested (the) TRAI to amend the consultation paper" to ensure a level playing field, Reliance Jio said in a statement to Reuters on Sunday, adding that "it is imperative upon TRAI to also consult on the methodology of assignment" of spectrum.

Airtel's Sunil Mittal also backed Ambani's stance on the issue.

Why India Did Not Choose Auction Route

Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya

Scindia announced that India will adopt the global trend of administrative spectrum allocation. "Satellite spectrum across the world is allocated administratively. So, India is not doing anything different from the rest of the world," he said.

Scindia assured that while the allocation would be administrative, the cost would be determined by TRAI to ensure fairness. "The regulatory authority of telecom has been empowered by the constitution to decide what that administrative pricing is going to be," he added.

The satellite broadband market in India is projected to grow rapidly, with estimates indicating it could reach USD 1.9 billion by 2030.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor celebrates festive season with limited edition of Urban Cruiser Taisor

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: Adding to the festive fervour, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today announced the Limited Edition of its highly popular model - Urban Cruiser Taisor. This special edition, designed with a focus on enhancing style, and premium-ness, comes with a well curated Toyota Genuine Accessories (TGA) package to elevate delight and excitement to customers.

Commenting on the introduction of the festive edition, Sabari Manohar - Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "At Toyota, our efforts have always been centered on being a part of our customers' special occasions and celebrations which reflect our dedication to crafting delightful, customer-centric experiences. Following the recent introduction of the Urban Cruiser Hryder Festive

Edition, we are excited to offer the Urban Cruiser Taisor Festive Edition, designed to bring something fresh and exciting to this festive season. We are confident that our customers will find great value in this new addition." Available across all Turbo variants, the Limited Edition comes with a comprehensive TGA package of Rs 20,160 enhancing both the exterior and interior of the versatile UC Taisor.

On This Day in 2013: Virat Kohli scored fastest hundred in ODIs by an Indian

NEW DELHI, Oct 16 (Agencies): On This Day in 2013, Virat Kohli delivered one of the most electrifying performances of his ODI career by scoring the fastest century by an Indian. He reached the landmark in just 52 balls against Australia in the second ODI of the seven-match series, played at Jaipur. Kohli's explosive knock helped India chase down a massive target of 360 runs with ease, recording a nine-wicket win with 39 balls to spare. Kohli broke Virender Sehwag's record of a 60-ball century from 2009 against New Zealand. Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli made a mockery of the target, if a mockery can indeed be made of a target of 360. India got there with nine wickets and 39 deliveries to spare.



Sharma and Virat Kohli made a mockery of the target, if a mockery can indeed be made of a target of 360. India got there with nine wickets and 39 deliveries to spare. Australia batted first and posted a daunting score of 359/5. Their innings was powered by blazing fifties from the top five batters of the team with captain George Bailey being the

top-scorer with an unbeaten 92. Rohit-Dhawan's partnership In response, Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan laid a solid foundation with a 176-run partnership for the first wicket. Dhawan played an attacking knock, scoring 95 off 86 balls before falling to James Faulkner, just five runs short of a well-deserved hundred.

Kohli's record-breaking hundred Rohit Sharma, on the other hand, remained unbeaten with a masterful 141 off 123 balls. His knock featured both patience and aggression, providing the perfect anchor for the chase. However, it was Kohli's innings that stole the show. He came in with India already in control and took the game completely away from Australia with a flurry of boundaries. Kohli smashed 7 sixes and 8 fours during his breathtaking century, ensuring that the required run rate was never a problem. India chased down 360/1—the highest successful run chase in ODI history at the time, with just one wicket lost. Kohli's performance, coupled with Rohit's brilliance, showcased India's batting firepower and gave them a memorable win in the series.

Women's T20 WC Semi-final: Australia start overwhelming favourites against South Africa

DUBAI, Oct 16 (Agencies): Australia will start as overwhelming favourites in their quest for an unprecedented eighth final appearance when they take on South Africa in the semi-final of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup here on Thursday. Australia have now made it to the semi-finals of the global T20 tournament in all its nine editions held so far since 2009 in England. The six-time champions take on the Proteas women in a last-four clash in what seems to be a repeat of the summit showdown during the 2023 edition in South Africa, which the Southern Stars won by 19 runs. Going by pure statistics, South Africa are no match for Australia who have won nine out of the 10 WT20I games, with the former's only win coming in January this year. The head-to-head record at Women's T20 World Cup is even more intimidating as Australia have won all the seven encounters. The best part about the current Australian team is the core which has

remained intact for years now with only Meg Lanning retiring from international cricket. All the 10 others, who played in the 2023 final are here with the likes of Alyssa Healy, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Ashleigh Gardner being the pillars of the team. On a slow Dubai track, the depth in batting has been Australia's biggest strength, with Phoebe Litchfield and Annabel Sutherland capable of musing the balls to the fence. For South Africa, one of their biggest assets has been slow left-arm orthodox Nonkululeko Mlaba, who has so far taken 10 wickets in four group league games. Skipper Laura Wolvaardt, her opening partner Taznim Brits and the seasoned Marizanne Kapp are all match-winners in their own rights but they have always come up short against Healy and company. Hopefully, the Proteas women would be eighth time lucky against familiar foes in their bid to win the maiden global T20 trophy.

Cricket Australia announce Ashes 2025-26 dates, Gabba to host Day-Night Test

SYDNEY, Oct 16 (Agencies): Cricket Australia (CA) has announced the dates for the 2025-26 Ashes series, revealing some significant changes to the traditional schedule. The series will begin with the first Test at Perth's Optus Stadium from November 21-25, followed by a day-night Test at Brisbane's Gabba from December 4-8, marking the second Test of the series. Adelaide will host the third Test from December 17-21, but unlike previous years, this will be a day game instead of the usual day-night format. The Boxing Day Test will take place at the MCG from December 26-30, while the fifth and final Test will be held at the SCG from January 4-8. One of the key changes to the Ashes schedule is the shift in the traditional venues. Brisbane, which has been the host of the Ashes opener since 1982-83, will instead host the second Test under lights. This will mark the first time in over four decades that Brisbane does not open the Ashes series. Adelaide, which has been home to the day-night Ashes Test in previous series, will now hold the pre-Christmas Test as a day game under a new agreement between CA and the South Australian

government, positioning the Test as a marquee holiday event due to its strong tourism appeal. Upcoming Test to be last at Gabba? The future of the Gabba is under some uncertainty, with redevelopment plans in place for the stadium ahead of the 2032 Olympics. The upcoming Ashes Test could potentially be the last at the iconic venue, as no Test match is scheduled there for the 2026-27 season or beyond, with the stadium expected to be unavailable by 2030. The Gabba has hosted three day-night Tests previously, including the West Indies' memorable victory in January 2024, but concerns remain about the suitability of the pink ball at the Gabba, as bowlers have noted issues with the ball becoming soft during matches, slowing the pace of play. Ashes 2025-26 schedule. Perth Test (West Test): Perth Stadium | Nov 21-25. Brisbane Test (Day/Night Test): Gabba | Dec 4-8. Adelaide Test (Christmas Test): Adelaide Oval | Dec 17-21. Melbourne Test (Boxing Day Test): MCG | Dec 26-30. Sydney Test (New Year's Test): SCG | Jan 4-8.

Abu Dhabi T10 League: Dinesh Karthik, Jos Buttler lead star-studded lineup

ABU DHABI, Oct 16 (Agencies): The 2024 edition of the Abu Dhabi T10 is set to be bigger and better than ever, with international cricket stars such as Dinesh Karthik, Jos Buttler, Jonny Bairstow, Marcus Stoinis, Lockie Ferguson, and Rashid Khan joining a stellar lineup of global talent. This season will feature two new franchises, Bolts Ajman and UP Nawabs, expanding the tournament to 10 teams—the largest in its history. Defending champions New York Strikers will return to defend their title, alongside Deccan Gladiators, Northern Warriors, Morrisville Samp Army, Delhi Bulls, Bangla Tigers, Team Abu Dhabi, and the newly rebranded Chennai Brave Jaguars (formerly The Chennai Braves). All teams have completed their player retentions and signings



in preparation for the crucial Players Draft, which will take place on October 17 at 6 pm UAE time. With over 400 players from across the globe registered for the draft, teams will compete to finalize their lineups ahead of the tournament. The excitement is heightened by a new three-year broadcast deal with Disney Star, providing extensive coverage in English and regional languages across India. Running from November 21 to December 2, the tournament will culminate

on UAE's 53rd National Day with the final at the iconic Zayed Cricket Stadium, which will host the event until 2028. TEAMS RETENTIONS AND SIGNINGS: New York Strikers New Signings: Matheesha Pathirana, Donovan Ferreira. Retentions: Kieron Pollard, Mohammad Amir, Sunil Narine, Akeal Hossain, Muhammad Waseem, Muhammad Jawadulla. Deccan Gladiators New Signings: Jos Buttler, Anrich Nortje, Marcus Stoinis. Retentions: Maheesh

Theekshana, Nicholas Pooran, Andre Russell, Tom Koher-Cadmore, Zahoor Khan. Delhi Bulls New Signings: Wanindu Hasaranga, Tim David, Romario Shephard, Matthew Wade. Retentions: Rovman Powell, Muhammad Rohid, Naveen-ul-Haq, Fazlahaq Farooqi, James Vince. Team Abu Dhabi New Signings: Jonny Bairstow, Lockie Ferguson, Shimron Hetmyer, AM Ghazanfar. Retentions: Phil Salt, Noor Ahmad, and Kyle Mayers. Northern Warriors New Signings: Trent Boult, Finn Allen, Johnson Charles, Sherfane Rutherford, Saqib Mahmood. Retentions: Colin Munro, Azmatullah Omarzai, Ankur Sangwan. Morrisville Samp Army New Signings: David

Wiley, Imad Wasim. Retentions: Faf du Plessis, Qais Ahmad, Andries Gous. Bangla Tigers New Signings: Shakib Al Hasan, Rashid Khan, Liam Livingstone, Iftikhar Ahmed, Dinesh Karthik. Retentions: Hazratullah Zazai, Dasun Shanaka, Joshua Little. Chennai Brave Jaguars New Signings: Chris Lynn, Nuwan Thushara, Thisara Perera, Dan Lawrence, Rassie van der Dussen. Retentions: Aayan Khan, George Munsey, Bhanuka Rajapaksa. UP Nawabs New Signings: Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Dawid Malan, Tymal Mills, Adil Rashid, Andre Fletcher. Bolts Ajman New Signings: James Neesham, Mujheeb Ur Rahman, Lungi Ngidi, Gulbadin Naib, Haider Ali.

Bengaluru crowd erupts with Virat Kohli chants at Chinnaswamy Stadium

BENGALURU, Oct 16 (Agencies): Day 1 of the 1st Test between India and New Zealand might not have witnessed any action yet, with rain playing spoilsport. Nonetheless, the fans remained upbeat, cheering through a rainy day at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on October 16, Wednesday. Despite an Orange Alert declared in the city and the Karnataka government ordering work from home due to inclement weather, this couldn't stop the fans from turning up in huge numbers despite

the incessant rain. Supporters queued outside the stadium amid persistent showers before finally gaining entry. The toss was delayed, but the fans continued to fill the stadium, showcasing their enthusiasm for the game and its players. As the Indian team shifted their base to an indoor training session, Virat Kohli made an appearance, sending the crowd into a frenzy. The RCB star walked across the stadium to the indoor training area, greeted by thunderous cheers. Emerging



star Yashasvi Jaiswal accompanied Kohli, eager to get into the groove before the match. Jaiswal has frequently been seen practising alongside Kohli in the nets, eager to learn from the seasoned campaigner. Bengaluru's love for

Kohli Kohli's arrival was met with chants of his name, creating the perfect homecoming for the crowd favourite. The unbreakable bond between the Bengaluru fans, RCB, and Kohli has on full display. Kohli has always acknowl-

edged the love and support showered on him by the fans. Now, the Bengaluru crowd eagerly awaits his performance in whites for India as they take on New Zealand. Although rain and drizzle persisted throughout the day, fans remained unfazed, waiting patiently to support the Indian team and their favorite stars. Their dedication highlighted the strong connection between the players and the supporters, who braved the weather in the hope of witnessing some action on the field.

Harmanpreet Kaur to lose India captaincy after Women's T20 World Cup 2024 debacle? Report makes big claim



NEW DELHI, Oct 16 (Agencies): India failed to qualify for the Women's T20 World Cup 2024 and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur has been facing a lot of criticism for the team's disappointing performance. India lost their matches against New Zealand and Australia to crash out of the competition and questions remain over whether Harmanpreet will retain her captaincy following the dismal run. According to a report by Indian Express, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is all set to take a call on whether the team needs a new captain.

The report claimed that the BCCI will meet head coach Amol Muzumdar and the selection committee to discuss the future plan and whether Harmanpreet will continue as the captain of the side or not. "The BCCI will certainly discuss whether to have a new captain on board going ahead. The Indian board has provided everything which the team wanted and we feel it's high time a new face leads the team going ahead. Harmanpreet will continue to be an important member of the team but the BCCI feels it's time for transition," a source

in the Indian board told the Indian Express. Earlier, former Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj had her say on whether Harmanpreet should continue as the skipper after the team's bad show in the T20 World Cup 2024. "It's up to BCCI and the selectors to take a call but if they are looking to change this would be the ideal time because if you delay more then we have another World Cup on the horizon (two years). If you are not doing now, then don't do it later. Then it is too close to the World Cup. Smriti is there of course and can be a choice to consider for the selectors (has been vice-captain for long) but I personally think someone like Jemimah, she's 24, she's young, she will serve you longer in the T20's and she's someone who I feel on the field gets that energy. She speaks to everybody. I was very impressed by her in this tournament," the former India skipper told agency in an interview.

Jasprit Bumrah has always been in our leadership group: Rohit Sharma

BENGALURU, Oct 16 (Agencies): India skipper Rohit Sharma has vindicated Jasprit Bumrah's promotion as the vice-captain for the three-Test series against New Zealand, terming the lead pacer as an integral part of the leadership group. Bumrah's elevation to vice-captaincy for the Test series came as a bit of surprise as India did not have a deputy to Rohit in the recent series against Bangladesh. The deci-

sion has been viewed as a precursor to Bumrah stepping in as India's skipper during the tour to Australia. Rohit is set to miss at least one Test Down Under due to personal reasons. "Bumrah has played a lot of cricket. I've played a lot of cricket with him. He understands the game pretty well. He's got a good head on his shoulders. When you talk to him, he understands the game," Rohit said. "Tactically, I can't say much because he has not captained

much. He was captain in one Test match and a couple of T20s, I guess," he added. Bumrah had led India in the rescheduled Test against England in 2022 and marshalled the side in the T20I series against Ireland last year. "He understands what is required. When you are in a situation where you need a leader to step up, I think Bumrah will be one of them. So, over the past, he's always been in our leadership group," said Rohit.

The 37-year-old said his premier pacer has seamlessly moved to the role of a mentor to the young pacers in the team. "Whether it is speaking to the bowlers who have just come into the squad, whether it is discussing about how to move forward as a team, he's always been part of that leadership group. So, it's probably the right thing to just have him around and speak to the bowlers and internally discuss how to take the team forward," he said.

BJP reaffirms commitment to J&K, pledges to serve as voice of people in Assembly: Ishant Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: The new government, formed by the National Conference (NC) in alliance with Congress and independent candidates, took oath in Srinagar.

BJP securing the highest vote share of 26% in the recently concluded assembly elections of Jammu & Kashmir, will now assume its role in opposition with full responsibility.

Advocate Ishant Gupta, BJP State IT Head for Jammu & Kashmir, emphasized that BJP's resounding success in Jammu demonstrates the unwavering trust and support of the people of the region. With zero seats won by Congress in the Jammu region, it is clear that the people here have rejected the politics of division and aligned themselves with BJP's vision for peace, stability,



and development. BJP's continued dedication to the people. "We are here to represent the voice of Jammu and Kashmir with full commitment. BJP will continue to work for the welfare of the people, ensuring that their aspirations are brought to the forefront in the Assembly," he said.

Gupta said he hopes that the NC-Congress Coalition Government will ensure the development of all regions and sections of society "as demonstrat-

ed by the Modi Government unlike the previous NC Congress dispensations when Jammu and Ladakh used to discriminate". He further added that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is grateful to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their unwavering support. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the people of Jammu for delivering 29 seats to BJP, reaffirming their trust in our leadership. We are also encouraged by the increasing support

in Kashmir, where BJP's vote share has seen significant growth, demonstrating the expanding reach of our message across both regions.

Gupta said that as the opposition, BJP will remain vigilant in representing the people's aspirations, holding the government accountable, and advocating for policies that promote security, growth, and opportunities for all. The party's presence in the Assembly will ensure that the needs

and concerns of every region are addressed.

He further added that BJP remains committed to working equally for the peace, development and prosperity of the entire Jammu and Kashmir. Our guiding principle of Nation First, Party Second, Self Last will continue to shape our work as we strive to fulfill the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas." We will ensure inclusive development and foster trust among all communities, ensuring that every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir benefits from our efforts.

BJP's journey in Jammu and Kashmir is guided by the trust placed in us by the people, and we are determined to work tirelessly to ensure a prosperous future for all and prepare to champion people's interests in opposition.

GHSS RS Pura boys launch OLABS

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: In an extraordinary stride toward revolutionizing educational practices and fostering high-quality learning, GHSS RS Pura Boys proudly inaugurated the OLABS study technique today.

This cutting-edge virtual lab initiative was launched in the Zoology Lab by Divya Mahajan, Lecturer in Zoology, under the guidance of the Principal, Neelam Gupta.

OLABS, or Online Labs, is an innovative platform providing interactive simulations for science and mathematics experiments tailored for school students.

The program allows learners to perform virtual experiments, enhancing their practical understanding of subjects without needing a physical laboratory.

"OLABS offers a unique opportunity for students to explore scientific experiments in a simulated environment, making practical learning accessible, even for institutions with limited lab resources or during



remote learning," said Principal Neelam Gupta, emphasizing the program's potential to transform science education.

Further explaining the benefits of this remarkable platform, Divya Mahajan remarked, "OLABS empowers students with virtual laboratory experiences that align seamlessly with their academic curricula. Through these interactive simulations, students can engage in experiments in physics, chemistry, and biology, which not only reinforce theoretical concepts but also provide a safe, self-paced environment to deepen their scientific understanding."

The launch witnessed an enthusiastic response from students, whose eagerness was palpa-

ble. One of the students shared, "I'm thrilled to learn through OLABS! It makes practical lessons incredibly engaging and easier to understand. Performing experiments on the computer allows me to see results instantly, making me feel like a real scientist. This is an amazing way to learn, and I'm grateful for this experience."

GHSS RS Pura boys continues to set benchmarks in modern educational techniques, integrating technology to create an enriched learning environment for its students. By adopting OLABS, the school reaffirms its commitment to staying at the forefront of educational innovation, ensuring that its students gain a dynamic, future-ready education.

Nussu Badragund residents aghast over dilapidated condition of link road; seeks admin intervention

Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Oct 16: The Residents of Nussu Badragund area in South Kashmir's Anantnag district have expressed strong resentment against the authorities over dilapidated road conditions in their locality.



The residents said that a link road connecting in their locality with the main road are dotted with potholes, giving a tough time for commuters. adding that our roads have turned muddy. We are confined to our homes during bad weather as all roads are getting waterlogged due to lack of drainage system and people are to facing difficulties in walking.

They also claimed that the road had not been repaired, and no macadamization has been done since decades, the locals blamed that the authorities weren't concerned for the inconvenience caused to the commuters due dilapidated condition of roads.

They further claimed that while all roads in district Anantnag were macadamized, the brief stretch of link roads in

these have been forgotten altogether by the concerned department and despite bringing the issue into the notice of concerned authorities several times.

Meanwhile, residents of the area appealed Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag and other concerned department to macadamise the road on priority basis so that residents may have a sigh of relief.

Govt Women Polytechnic signs MOU with Classic Enterprises Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: In a significant step towards empowering women in technology and vocational skills, the Government Polytechnic for Women Jammu has officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Classic Enterprises, Jammu a leading manufacturer of home appliances. The agreement was formalized in a ceremony held at the Classic Enterprise's Gangyal, Jammu in presence of Er. Kamal Kumar TPO and Er. Naresh Gupta H.O.D E&C/Electrical Engineering of this Institution..

This partnership aims to provide students with valuable exposure to the home appliances industry, facilitating internships, hands-on training, and workshops. Through this collaboration, students will gain practical knowledge and skills that align with industry standards, enhancing their employability in a competitive job market.

Speaking at the event, Er. Suket Gupta, Principal of Govt. Polytechnic for Women Jammu,

expressed enthusiasm for the collaboration. "This MoU marks a pivotal moment for our students, allowing them to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical application in the industry. We are excited about the opportunities this partnership will create."

Sh. Sudhir Gupta, Managing Director of Classic Enterprises, emphasized the importance of investing in the next generation of women professionals. "We believe in fostering talent and empowering women in the workforce. This collaboration will help us nurture skilled individuals who can contribute meaningfully to our industry."

The MOU outlines various initiatives, including workshops on emerging technologies in home appliances, guest lectures by industry experts, and potential job placements for graduates.

As part of this partnership, both organizations are committed to promoting skill development and creating a supportive environment for women aspiring to excel in technical fields.

GGM Science College organises workshop on Communication and Life Skills

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 16: The Guidance, Counselling and Facilitation Committee at GGM Science College, under the National Education Policy (NEP-2020), organized a one-day workshop on Communication and Life Skills aimed at preparing students to effectively tackle life's diverse challenges.

The event was targeted to build resilience and adaptability and was held under the esteemed guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of GGM Science College. The workshop featured a keynote lecture by Dr. Jyoti Sharma, Associate Professor at the Department of Commerce, University of Jammu. Dr. Sharma shared valuable insights into the importance of effective communication skills

for managing real-life situations and enhancing overall well-being. Her talk emphasized the critical role of technological advancements in efficiently managing life's demands, enabling participants to develop a balanced, adaptable approach.

In his address, Dr. Gupta emphasized the significance of such workshops in promoting holistic personal development, equipping students with essential skills for success across various life domains. He commended the dedication of both students and faculty in organizing initiatives focused on personality grooming, crucial for navigating today's dynamic world.

The workshop witnessed active participation from students, led by Sumeet Kumar and Mohd. Ayoub Jaan. Stu-

dents gained a comprehensive understanding of skills essential for academic and professional success. Dr. Vandana Khajuria, Convener of the Guidance, Counselling, and Facilitation Committee, encouraged students to continuously engage in such opportunities for ongoing personal and professional growth.

Earlier, the program commenced with a welcome address by student representative Chakshu Sharma and was coordinated by faculty members Prof. Sunita Kumari, Prof. Varun Arya, and Dr. Ritika Singh. Among others the event was attended by Dr. Sunil Dutt, Dr. Suram Singh, and Dr. Sumiksha Thakur. The workshop concluded with a formal vote of thanks, marking the end of a highly enriching day focused on life skills and personal development.

'New Govt won't discriminate on region or religion'

We will press for restoration of statehood, Darbar Move: Sakina Itoo

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 16: Senior National Conference (NC) leader Sakina Itoo, who took oath as a minister in the newly formed Omar Abdullah-led government on Wednesday said that the new government won't discriminate on the basis of region or religion.

She also assured the public that the party is committed to fulfilling the people's aspirations, particularly by pressing for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

Speaking shortly after the swearing-in ceremony, Itoo said the mandate given to the National Conference and the responsibility it bears to meet the expectations of the people.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir have given us a huge mandate, and we will ensure that their hopes are met with action. Our top priority will be the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. We won't discriminate based on religion. Both regions Kashmir and Jammu will get equal representation. From Kashmir we have a CM and Deputy CM is

from Jammu," Itoo said. In addition to statehood, she highlighted the National Conference's commitment to restoring the traditional Darbar Move, the bi-annual shifting of the capital between Srinagar and Jammu.

"The Darbar Move has been an integral part of Jammu and Kashmir's administration, ensuring balanced attention to both Jammu and Srinagar. We will work towards reviving this tradition to bridge the gap between the two regions," she added.

Sakina Itoo, a senior NC leader from South Kashmir, is one of the key figures in the Omar Abdullah-led government, which took office following the historic assembly elections.

On the recent electoral victory, Itoo said that the massive mandate given to the National Conference reflects the people's desire for stability, development, and the protection of Jammu and Kashmir's unique identity.

"This mandate shows that people trust us to lead them through these challenging times. We are aware of the responsibilities that come with it, and we are determined to

deliver on every front, be it development, education, healthcare," Itoo said.

MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI



DEALS IN SALE, PURCHASE, REPAIRING AND SERVICING OF USED CARS AND ORIGINAL SPARE PARTS

📍 NAGROTA, JAMMU (J&K) ☎️ +91-9086207123