

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024

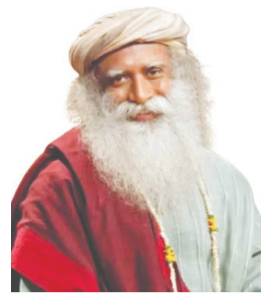
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## BRIEFLY

### Bullet-riddled body of non-local labourer found in Shopian

SRINAGAR, Oct 18 (Agencies): A non-local man from Bihar was shot dead in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district on Friday, officials said.

The incident occurred in the Wandana Malhora area of Shopian early in the morning.

The victim, Ashok Chauhan, in his thirties and a resident of Banka district in Bihar, was shot dead around 9 a.m. in Wandana, where he had gone to collect corn.

"Ashok, a corn seller by profession, was residing in the Sangam area of Anantnag.

This morning, he went to collect corn from Wandana Malhora, a border village of Shopian, where he was shot dead by terrorists," a security official said.

Locals later discovered the body, which was subsequently moved to a hospital for medico-legal procedures.

"He sustained multiple bullet wounds," the official added.

A massive search operation has been launched by the joint in the area to track down the attackers.

### Two PDD daily wagers injured while repairing 11Kv line in Poonch

SRINAGAR, Oct 18 (Agencies): Two daily wagers of Power Development Department (PDD) were injured Friday after getting in contact of a live wire in Sanai area of Surankote in J-K's Poonch.

Quoting officials, news agency GNS reported that the two daily wagers were repairing an 11KV line when they received an electric shock and were injured.

Both the workers were immediately shifted to Sub-district hospital Surankote for treatment, from there, they were shifted to GMC Rajouri for advanced treatment, the official said.

The injured were identified as Mohd Farooq (48) son of Faqir Mohd resident of Potha and Mohd Khaliq

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## LG Manoj Sinha allocates portfolios to newly inducted Ministers in Omar-Led Cabinet



JAMMU, Oct 18 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Friday allocated portfolios to the newly inducted

ministers in Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led cabinet.

An order to allocate the portfolios on the advice

of the Chief Minister was issued by the LG here.

According to the order, deputy chief minister Surinder Kumar Choud-

hary will hold the charge of Public Works (R&B), Industries and Commerce, Mining, Labour

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## BJP mocks Omar cabinet's statehood restoration pledge, says PM Modi promised it long ago

JAMMU, Oct 18 (Agencies): Hours after Omar Abdullah's cabinet passed a resolution for the restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir, BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh dubbed the move as eyewash and said that the National Conference (NC) was mere playing to the gallery by resorting to such tactics.

Tarun Chugh, speaking to IANS said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah had already promised statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K CM Omar Abdul-



lah, chairing first cabinet meeting on Thursday, passed a resolution and urged the Centre for the restoration of statehood for the Union Territory.

Tarun Chugh further said, "PM Modi had already promised to bring statehood to the Union Territory. And,

whatever PM Modi promises, he fulfils it. PM Modi has fulfilled all the promises he has made till now. Be it restoring peace, development, trust or holding elections on time. Not a single promise is left. Our government is committed to restoring statehood in the J&K."

He further trained guns at the Chief Minister, accusing the latter of politicizing every matter.

BJP leader also launched a sharp critique of former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal over rising pollution in the

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## PDP Criticises Absence of Article 370 in JK Statehood Resolution as a Huge Setback

SRINAGAR, Oct 18 (Agencies): People's Democratic Party (PDP) on Friday said the Jammu and Kashmir government's first reported resolution demanding restoration of statehood and not Article 370, was a "huge setback" and nothing less than the ratification

of the Centre's 2019 decisions.

Another political party, the People's Conference, has also questioned the secrecy over the resolution.

The reactions came after the cabinet had passed a resolution urging the Centre to restore JK's statehood.

The report also said that the chief minister will travel to Delhi to handover the draft of the resolution to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

However, there was no official confirmation or denial of the report so far.

"Omar Abdullah's first resolution on statehood

is nothing less than ratification of the August 5, 2019 decision. No resolution on Article 370 and scaling down the demand to mere statehood is a huge setback, especially after seeking votes on the promise of restoring Article 370," PDP youth president

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## Govt detaches Suhail Malik from ULB, orders him to join Municipal Council Anantnag

SRINAGAR, Oct 18 (Agencies): The J&K administration Friday ordered the detachment of Suhail Ahmad Malik, from the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir where he was serving as the Executive Officer. Kashmiri handi-

crafts Malik has been asked to report back to his

original place of posting as Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Anantnag. He has also been given an additional charge of Municipal Committee, Pahalgam.

"It is, hereby, ordered that Mr. Suhail Ahmad Malik, Executive Officer presently attached with the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir,

vide Government Order No. 191-JK(HUD) of 2024 dated 13.09.2024, is detached and is directed to report back to his original place of posting i.e. Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Anantnag, with additional charge of Municipal Committee, Pahalgam.

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## MHA urges States and UTs to implement BNSS for undertrial prisoner relief

NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has urged all states and Union Territories (UTs) to implement Section 479 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) to provide much-needed relief for undertrial prisoners.

Section 479 of the BNSS allows for the release of bail of those prisoners who have served significant periods of detention, particularly first-time offenders.

The advisory highlights the responsibilities of prison authorities to apply for bail and stresses the need for monitoring and utilizing

the national E-Prisons portal to identify eligible inmates.

Additionally, it emphasizes a financial aid scheme for poor prisoners, encouraging states to leverage these resources to alleviate overcrowding in prisons.

In the advisory issued on Wednesday, the MHA highlighted concerns over prison overcrowding and the extended detention faced by many individuals awaiting trial.

The advisory, directed to Chief Secretaries and heads of prison authorities, emphasizes that under Section 479, individuals detained for up to half the maximum imprisonment period

may be released on bail. For first-time offenders, this period is reduced to one-third.

Moreover, the advisory cites a recent Supreme Court order mandating that these provisions apply retroactively to all undertrials, irrespective of when their cases were filed. This directive requires Superintendents of Prisons to promptly submit bail applications as eligible prisoners complete their detention terms.

To facilitate this process, the MHA has enhanced the national E-Prisons portal, enabling authorities to quickly identify eligible inmates.

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## Will of people shall be reflected in assembly, not in cabinet: Sajad Lone

SRINAGAR, Oct 18 (Agencies): Peoples Conference (PC) chief and MLA Handwara Sajad Gani Lone Thursday said he wonders why a resolution on statehood passed by the cabinet is "shrouded in mystery and secrecy."

Lone said, the will of the J&K people must reflect in the assembly and not in the cabinet. Cabinet, Lone said is a majoritarian institution of governance and does not reflect all shades and opinions as per the

will of the people.

"All across the country, to the best of my knowledge, Assembly is the proper institution for addressing major issues like that of statehood or Article 370. When the NC Government passed a resolution on autonomy they passed it in the Assembly not through a cabinet resolution. What has changed now," asked Lone on his official X-handle.

He said, he fails to understand why the resolution wasn't reserved

for the assembly.

"Would have loved to see which way BJP and other parties vote on statehood and on Article 370 resolution when it is presented in the Assembly," Lone wrote.

Mentioning promises stated in JKNC's manifesto on restoring article-370 and statehood in his post, Lone said, people aren't demanding or expecting anything extraordinary and that govt should do what it promised to J&K people.

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# Offering Dy Speaker's post to Opposition not a new thing: BJP

### 'BJP to convene meeting first to elect Leader of Opposition'

#### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 18: As the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference (NC) government has decided to offer the Deputy Speaker post to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the party's General Secretary, Ashok Koul, said that they will first elect the Leader of the Opposition before making any decisions on the Deputy Speaker position.

Senior National Conference leader and seven-time MLA Abdul Rahim Rather is likely to be the new Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

The National Confer-

ence leadership has decided to offer the Deputy Speaker post to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the second-largest party in the House after the National Conference, which will serve as the main opposition party.

BJP General Secretary Ashok Koul said that offering the Deputy Speaker post to the opposition is not a new practice. "During the PDP-BJP government, when the NC was in opposition, its leader Nazir Gurezi was made Deputy Speaker. This is not unprecedented. We will first elect the Leader of the Opposition, and then our leaders will decide on the Deputy Speaker's post,"

Koul said. Recently, the BJP Parliamentary Board appointed Union Minister Prahlad Joshi and BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh, who oversees Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh UTs, as Central Observers.

Their role is to monitor the selection of the BJP's Leader of the Legislature Party in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

Koul confirmed that a meeting to elect the Leader of the Legislature Party will be held soon, coordinated by the newly appointed Observers, likely within the coming week.

When asked about potential candidates for

the Deputy Speaker post, Koul said that the party will decide after internal discussions.

This development mirrors a similar instance in 2015 when the PDP-BJP government, led by the late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, allocated the Deputy Speaker post to the NC, despite its then diminished presence of just 15 seats. Nazir Gurezi was elected Deputy Speaker, while the Speaker's position was held by BJP's Kavinder Gupta, later succeeded by Dr. Nirmal Singh.

The NC emerged as the single largest party in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections with 42 seats, securing

a comfortable majority in the 95-member House alongside its alliance partners, Congress and CPI(M), who won six and one seat, respectively. The BJP made significant gains, winning an all-time high of 29 seats, while the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) made its debut in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly by securing the Doda constituency.

Other notable results from the elections include the PDP, led by Mehbooba Mufti, which won three seats, and People's Conference (PC), led by Sajad Gani Lone, and AIP, led by Engineer Rashid, each of which secured one seat from North Kashmir.

# ABVP proposes several measures to improve campus safety in JU



#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 18: The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) met with the Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu, prof Umesh Rai on Friday to express concerns over recent security issues, particularly the serious injury of a law department student due to reckless driving by outsiders.

In response, ABVP proposed several measures to improve

campus safety. They demanded designating the university as a No Vehicle Zone, with limited access for the Vice Chancellor and Deans; Increasing e-car services to facilitate student movement; Deploying military or paramilitary personnel at all university gates; Expanding CCTV coverage across campus; Forming a student-professor committee to oversee the entry of outsiders; and Setting up a

dedicated control room for continuous monitoring.

Unit Vice President Chaitanya Mangotra and Secretary Ananya Rathore stressed the urgency of these measures to ensure student and faculty safety. The delegation also included Sannak Shrivats, Shivam Ji, Manik Goswami, and Thakur Ashwani Singh Ji, all urging immediate action from the university administration.

# Defeated Congress approaches High Court for disguised entry into Assembly: GLR

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 18: Criticising and condemning Congress party in strongest words for its anti-KP, Anti-POJK Displaced People, former MLC & JK UT spokesperson of BJP Girdhari Lal Raina termed double standards of party responsible for pain and displacement of these communities.

Congress party and INDI Block which is inherently against Displaced Communities because of their religious faith has exhibited its hatred once again by approaching the Jammu and Kashmir High court against nomination of members to the legislative assembly by LG of the UT.

Ravinder Sharma, a former member of the legislative council and senior vice president of the Pradesh Congress Committee, has filed the petition challenging the provisions of the J&K Reorganisation Act,



which grants the Lieutenant Governor the power to nominate five MLAs. It has not learnt anything even after the Supreme Court refused to entertain the plea, lamented EX-MLC.

GL Raina recalled that Congress Party, National Conference and entire INDI Block deceitfully opposed these amendments in both houses of the Parliament in December 2023 when the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was discussed in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on December 5-6, and

December 11, 2024 respectively. Prominent members of Congress party and National Conference who spoke and opposed the Bill include Hassnain Masoodi, Lop Adhir Ranjan Choudary, Manish Tiwari, and Vivek Tankha among others.

"In the Bill, there is a provision to nominate the Lt. Governor. I oppose it", declared NC MP, Raina quoted Parliamentary proceedings. "The law which this Bill intends to amend has been constitutionally challenged and the matter is pending in the Supreme Court. Therefore, no Bill

amending that law should be brought before this House' was the stand of Congress leader Manish Tiwari. Vivek Tankha in Rajya Sabha wanted those who left Kashmir before 1989 to be included in eligible people. Baseless pain of Adhir Ranjan Choudary was "more facilities in Jammu and cut facilities in Kashmir and thus create a divide within the entire population"

Now that the BJP government under the dynamic leadership of PM Narendra Modi has ensured measures to provide justice and rights to all those who have been wronged, humiliated and ignored for 70 years these opportunistic parties desire to control and snatch these little benefits also, added GL Raina. He appealed to people to teach these leaders a lesson who after being rejected in polls eye backdoor entry.

# Amit Kapoor urges Omar Abdullah to reform education system, crack down on school mafia

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 18: Senior Aam Aadmi Party leader Amit Kapoor has called on newly elected Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to enhance the education system in Jammu and Kashmir, advocating for reforms similar to those implemented in Delhi. Kapoor emphasized the need to take decisive action against the private school mafia and to halt the practice of charging annual fees, aiming for an equitable education environment for all children.

During a press conference in Jammu, Kapoor expressed optimism that the government would prioritize improvements



in both the education and health systems. He urged the establishment of Mohalla clinics, inspired by the initiatives of Delhi's Arvind Kejriwal government, to provide accessible healthcare to the common people.

Highlighting a crucial High Court ruling from March 18, 2019, which prohibits private schools from charging annual

fees, Kapoor criticized the ongoing exploitation of parents by these institutions. He noted that, for years, families have suffered under the burden of excessive fees, exacerbated by the lack of an elected government that could address these pressing issues.

Kapoor pointed out that bureaucrats, disconnected from the realities

faced by citizens, have failed to recognize and resolve the fundamental problems affecting the populace. He stated that the absence of a responsive government had widened the gap between the people and their leaders, allowing the private school mafia to thrive unchecked.

With the formation of the elected government, Kapoor expressed hope that immediate action would be taken to rein in the private school mafia and to ensure that all children, regardless of their background, can access quality education together. He underscored that these reforms are essential for the welfare of the entire state.

# KDP wing of DPAP submits key demands

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 18: In a joint statement, the Kashmiri Displaced People (KDP) Wing of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) has made a series of urgent appeals to the Central Government, Lieutenant Governor, and newly elected Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir. Led by President Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita, and General Secretary Raj Kumar Ticku, the leaders have called for immediate action regarding the plight of displaced persons.

The KDP Wing has requested the enhancement of monthly cash assistance for displaced individuals from the current rate of Rs 108 per day to Rs 300 per day. They emphasized that the existing amount is insufficient to meet basic living expenses, particularly given that essential commodity prices have surged by 200% since the last increase in 2018.

Highlighting the ongoing challenges faced by the community, the leaders expressed their frustration over the government's failure to implement a Rehabilitation Policy for the past thirty-five years. They noted that the community has been marginalized and deprived of their constitutional rights, particularly in light of the last decade's governance by a particular section.

The leaders proposed the formation of a Special Committee of Officers to assess the conditions in migrant camps in Jammu, focusing on sanitation, medical facilities, security, and infrastructure. They stressed the need for improved living conditions, including the renovation of communal spaces and adequate street lighting.

Concerns were raised about the deteriorating state of over 300 shops constructed in migrant camps since 2012, which have not been allotted to shopkeepers. They called for a

committee to facilitate the allotment process, as shopkeepers are currently facing high rental costs in private establishments.

In terms of security, the leaders highlighted the inadequate police presence in Jagti Migrant Camp, urging for the deployment of at least ten armed police personnel to ensure the safety of the residents, given the camp's population of over 25,000.

Finally, they addressed the rising death rates in the camp due to poor living conditions and requested renovations of community mourning halls to allow for proper grieving practices in line with their religious customs.

The KDP Wing expressed hope that the Commissioner Secretary of Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation, and the Relief Commissioner for Migrants would take immediate action to improve the living conditions of displaced persons in all camps, ultimately aiming to alleviate their suffering.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN BANI  
Notification 06 of 2024 Dated : 10/10/2024

Sub: Final Merit list and Final Select list, of Sahayikas(AWHs).

Whereas vide this Office Advertisement Notice No : 03 of 2024 dated 12.03.2024, applications were invited from eligible female candidates against 02 vacant posts of Sahayikas (AWHs) of Poshan Project Bani.

Whereas 06 candidates have applied against the 02 available Vacant advertised posts of Sahayikas (AWHs) in Project Bani.

Whereas the merit and other necessary particulars of all the candidates who have applied vide above referred advertisement notification have been checked / scrutinized by the committee constituted vide Govt. Order No : 103- JK ( SWD ) of 2023 dated : 28-04-2023 and Govt. order No 222-JK ( SWD ) of 2022 dated : 30-11-2022 and Social Welfare Department, J&K Letter No.SWD-ICDS/43/2022 dated: 14.08.2023.

Whereas the Provisional/ Tentative merit list and provisional /Tentative Select List as per Annexure- A and Annexure- B respectively to this notification was placed in public domain for seeking objections (if any) and was published in Newspaper Daily Excelsior dated 14.08.2024 through District Information Officer vide Office letter No:CDPO/B/2024-25/255-66 dated 10-08-2024 besides on website of DC Office Kathua/Sub-Divisional Administration/Tehsil/Block/Panchayat Buildings/Anganwadi Centre Buildings etc for seeking objections from candidates/general public on the tentative list within 10 days.

Whereas, after the expiry of 10 days from the date of publication of this notification No. 05 of 2024 dated 08-08-2024 in Daily Excelsior dated 14.08.2024, no objection was received from any candidate/stake holder/general public.

Therefore in view of the above and as per the procedure laid in the above referred Govt. Orders , the Final Merit List and Final Select List as Annexure-A and Annexure-B respectively to this notification are hereby published for the information of General Public and all concerned.

Grievance(s)/Objection(s) (if any),the appeal in this regard shall lie before Deputy Commissioner Kathua within ten days from the date of publication of this notification/list. No grievance(s)/Objection(s) of any kind shall be entertained after ten days from the date of publication of this notification/list.

No :- CDPO/B/2024-25/ 548-59  
Dated:-10/10/2024  
Aditya Krishna Dogra ( JKAS)  
Child Development Project Officer  
Poshan Bani

Copy for information to the :-

1. District Development Commissioner Kathua.
2. Mission Director Poshan J&K Jammu.
3. Additional District Development Commissioner Kathua.
4. District Programme officer Kathua.
5. Sub Divisional Magistrate Bani.
6. District Informatics Officer Kathua with the request to upload/hoist the notification on Official website of Deputy Commissioner Kathua.
7. All Committee Members .
8. Deputy Director Poshan Jammu .
9. District Information Officer Kathua, with the request to publish this notification along with Annexures on 02 leading dailies.
10. Concerned Supervisors for Pasting this notification in respective Panchayat Ghars/Municipal Wards
11. ICs Websites of the concerned Deptts.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN BANI

**ANNEXURE-A**

Final Merit List with necessary particulars who have applied for the post of Sahayika (AWH) for Anganwadi Centre Nara W.No.01, Panchayat Sitti under Advertisement No.03 of 2024 dated: 12.03.2024, Phase-III

S.No.	Name of the Project	Name of AWC	Ward No.	Name of Panchayat	Name of Applicant	Father/ Husband Name	D.O.B. as per Matric Diploma/ Marksheet (DD.MM.YYYY)	Marks obtained in Class-X	Maximum Marks	Percentage	Total Points	Whether 10+2 (Yes/No)	Whether Married (Yes/No)	Whether belong to BPL Category (Yes/No)	Whether Widow/ Divorcee	Remarks	
1	Poshan Bani	Nara	W.No.01	SITI	Pooja Devi	W/o Sh. Pardeep Kumar	31.12.1999	238	500	47.6	47.6	No	Yes	No	-		
2					Rekha Devi	W/o Sh. Suresh Kumar	01.02.1994	226	500	45.2	45.2	No	Yes	Yes (PHH)	-		
3					Seema Devi	W/o Sh. Surjeet Singh	10.03.1996	174	500	34.8	34.8	No	Yes	Yes (AAY)	-		

Child Dev. Project Officer  
Poshan Bani

Final Merit List with necessary particulars who have applied for the post of Sahayika (AWH) for Anganwadi Centre Shashal W.No.03, Panchayat Kanthal under Advertisement No.03 of 2024 dated: 12.03.2024, Phase-III

S.No.	Name of the Project	Name of AWC	Ward No.	Name of Panchayat	Name of Applicant	Father/ Husband Name	D.O.B. as per Matric Diploma/ Marksheet (DD.MM.YYYY)	Marks obtained in Class-X	Maximum Marks	Percentage	Total Points	Whether 10+2 (Yes/No)	Whether Married (Yes/No)	Whether belong to BPL Category (Yes/No)	Whether Widow/ Divorcee	Remarks	
1	Poshan Bani	Shashal	W.No.03	Kanthal	Nisha Devi	W/o Sh. Jawalish Parshad	11.11.1999	247	500	49.4	49.4	Yes	Yes	Yes (AAY)	-		
2					Anju Devi	W/o Sh. Pawan Kumar	05.07.1988	214	500	42.8	42.8	No	Yes	Yes (PHH)	-		
3					Bimla Devi	W/o Sh. Parveen Kumar	30.06.1999	190	500	38	38	No	Yes	Yes (PHH)	-		

Child Dev. Project Officer  
Poshan Bani

## EDITORIAL

## Adopting Citizen-Centric Policies

Citizen-centric policies are a fundamental aspect of modern governance, aimed at placing the needs, preferences, and experiences of citizens at the forefront of policy design and implementation. These policies not only enhance the quality of public services but also foster trust between governments and their constituents, ultimately leading to more effective governance. This essay explores the significance of citizen-centric policies, their key characteristics, and the challenges and strategies for their successful implementation.

The primary goal of citizen-centric policies is to ensure that government actions align with the needs and aspirations of the populace. As societies become increasingly complex, traditional top-down governance approaches often fail to address local issues effectively. By involving citizens in the policymaking process, governments can create more relevant and responsive services.

Moreover, citizen-centric policies promote democratic principles by encouraging participation and engagement. When citizens feel their voices matter, they are more likely to engage in civic activities, fostering a sense of community and responsibility. This engagement can lead to improved social cohesion and enhanced accountability in governance.

Effective citizen-centric policies are designed to be inclusive, ensuring that diverse voices are heard, particularly from marginalized groups. This inclusivity can be achieved through public consultations, surveys, and focus groups, allowing for a broader range of perspectives to inform decision-making.

Transparency is crucial for building trust. Governments should provide clear information about policy goals, processes, and outcomes. This not only empowers citizens but also holds public officials accountable for their actions.

Policies must be easily accessible to all citizens. This means considering language, literacy levels, and digital divides. Providing information in multiple formats and languages can enhance understanding and engagement.

Citizen-centric policies should incorporate mechanisms for feedback. This includes regular assessments of policy impact and channels for citizens to voice their concerns or suggestions. Feedback loops help refine policies and demonstrate that citizen input is valued.

Ultimately, citizen-centric policies aim to empower individuals and communities to take an active role in governance. This can be achieved through capacity-building initiatives that equip citizens with the skills and knowledge to engage effectively in public discourse.

Despite their importance, several challenges can hinder the successful implementation of citizen-centric policies.

Established bureaucratic structures may resist shifts toward more participatory approaches, viewing citizen involvement as a threat to authority.

Engaging citizens effectively often requires significant resources, including time, funding, and skilled personnel. Many governments may struggle to allocate these resources amid competing priorities.

While digital tools can enhance citizen engagement, they can also exacerbate inequalities. Not all citizens have equal access to technology, which can alienate those without the means to participate in online platforms.

In regions where government-citizen relations are strained, citizens may be skeptical about the authenticity of participation initiatives. Building trust takes time and consistent effort.

To overcome these challenges, governments can adopt several strategies.

Collaborating with civil society organizations, community groups, and the private sector can enhance outreach efforts and provide additional resources for citizen engagement initiatives.

Governments should leverage technology to facilitate engagement while ensuring that offline methods are also available. Hybrid approaches can help reach a broader audience.

Investing in training for both government officials and citizens can promote a better understanding of participatory governance and effective communication.

Implementing pilot projects can allow governments to test citizen-centric approaches in a controlled environment, learn from feedback, and scale successful initiatives.

Establishing robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks can help assess the impact of citizen-centric policies, providing valuable insights for continuous improvement.

Citizen-centric policies represent a paradigm shift in governance, moving away from top-down approaches toward inclusive, transparent, and participatory frameworks. While challenges remain, the potential benefits—enhanced public trust, improved service delivery, and stronger communities—are significant. By prioritizing citizen engagement and empowerment, governments can create policies that not only meet the needs of their constituents but also foster a more resilient and democratic society. As the global landscape continues to evolve, embracing citizen-centric governance will be crucial for sustainable development and social progress.

## Omar, "I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India."

By: Omkar Dattatray

Omar Abdullah the vice-president of NC and the leader of its legislature has been sworn as the first chief minister of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir along with other five ministers including a deputy chief minister on 16 of October 2024 at the SKICC situated at the banks of mesmerizing and beautiful Dal Lake in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. But mind Omar took the mantle of chief minister-ship of a Union territory unlike his previous stint as the chief minister of a full-fledged state of J&K and he remained the CM for full six years from 2008 to 2014. But now he has taken the oath of office and secrecy in the altogether different situation, politico-social conditions and the oath has been administered by Lieutenant governor and not the governor because the constitutional head of the JK UT is LG and not the governor unlike the case in a full-fledged state. At the outset it is in the fitness of things to outline and mention that in the changed environment and political conditions, Omar Abdullah has taken oath of office and secrecy as the maiden chief minister no doubt in the name of God, but under the constitution of India unlike his previous oath as the Chief minister under the constitution of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. Thus he said, "I Omar Abdullah do swear in the name of God, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the constitution of India, as by law established". This is the major difference between the oath taking in a state and a UT. The erstwhile state had been downgraded and downsized duly by the Parliament of India under Modi regime in August 2019 and the state has been bifurcated into two Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh. Along with it on the same day spe-

cial status and position of Jammu and Kashmir granted by virtue of Article 370 as well as article 35 A of the constitution of India had been abrogated and revoked. Thus Jammu and Kashmir had been divested of statehood and controversial Article 370 of the constitution has been scrapped and JK had become a UT and continues to be so. Thus Omar Abdullah has become the chief minister of a UT and not a state and is now the head of government in a totally altered politico-constitutional arrangement and so he has to work as the chief minister under certain limitations and constraints. It is good that the new and first chief minister of the JK UT has emphasized that he will not neither antagonize the centre government nor the LG but work in coordination with both for the interest of the people who have once again reposed their trust and confidence on NC-Congress alliance. While navigating the ship of governance, Omar should not work like the CM of Delhi Kejriwal who had remained in constant conflict, tussle and friction with the LG of Delhi and the functioning of his government and governance had been badly impacted to the disadvantage not only of Delhi CM, but of the gullible people of Delhi who suffered a lot due to friction between the UT government and LG's office. And remember same Kejriwal is counseling Omar Abdulla to work in accordance with his model, but if Omar will follow the footsteps of Kejriwal, he is bound to fail miserably. However it seems that Omar Abdullah is sane and experienced enough and he will function in close coordination with the LG and centre government and keep liaison and cordial relations with both the LG and the union government and in this will lie that magic of Omar's model of working and governance and it will be in the best interests of the people of JK. Omar cannot afford

to annoy either LG with whom he as chief minister of the UT has to remain in constant touch or neither the centre government without whose funds and finances and blessings he cannot achieve much and required success in his governance which should remain people centric. Omar should have and possess the knack of attracting huge funds from the union government so that he will be successful in fulfilling his poll promises upon which the voters of J&K have given him a historical mandate to rule the UT. The chief minister has now to begin his task to address the day to day issues and problems of the people of both the regions of the UT. Omar should try his best to fulfill the poll promises and firstly he should not pursue the political issues of statehood as the Prime minister Modi and Home minister Amit Shah has umpteen time in the past and most recently during the assembly electioneering made their intention clear that the GOI is committed to restore statehood to J&K at an appropriate time and the chief minister of the UT should give the centre government enough time to grant full statehood. Omar should not begin his inning with confrontation with the centre government and its representative the LG who is after all the constitutional head of the J&K UT. Thus the chief minister should begin his stint on a positive note so that he can extract as much funds as possible for fulfilling his promises and freebies because without the blessings of the Modi government, he cannot be successful in his endeavors no matter how honestly and sincerely he will work for giving relief to the alienated and orphaned people of Jammu and Kashmir. To begin, Omar and his team of five ministers should concentrate on lessening the difficulties and miseries of the people of the UT in which they are engulfed. Pro-people governance should be the watchword

of his government. The new coalition government should try to address the issues of cheap electricity and should also provide 200 units of free electricity as promised by the NC in its poll manifesto. Good roads, good schooling for the children, affordable health services and hygiene and hospitals, provision of job opportunities to the educate and skilled youth, availability of pure drinking water, strengthening of eco-friendly environment and the like are the main issues which the new government should sincerely try to address for the people. Controlling the skyrocketing prices of the essential goods and services should also be an item of priority of the Omar government, though it is not the exclusive domain of the UT government, but he should do his bit in this respect. MHA had already given enough powers to the LG Manoj Sinha much in advance of the assembly elections and it has tilted the balance of power in favor of LG. So Omar has to carry on governance of J&K within the limitations and constraints of the Re-organization act and its consequences. As the controversial Article 370 is a history and so there is no state flag as ours is a UT. So Omar has to make a tight rope walk in governing the UT and coming up to the expectations of the people who had reposed trust in him and his coalition. But Omar should not lose heart and keep patience as his main poll plank the restoration of statehood is going to be fulfilled by the centre government and for that he and his government has not to worry and work hard. Statehood is our constitutional and democratic right and we will get it soon and the government need to trust the centre government in this regard.

*(The author is a columnist, social & KP activists)*

## Digital Hygiene Guide to curb screen Addiction in kids

By: Vijay GarG

It's important for parents of school-going kids to set boundaries when it comes to tech usage. Here's an expert guide that shows you how

Screen addiction, like substance addiction, is known to create a spike in dopamine levels. More the screen time, greater the risk of a child getting hooked to a digital device

Screen addiction, like substance addiction, is known to create a spike in dopamine levels. More the screen time, greater the risk of a child getting hooked to a digital device

Screen addiction among young kids is becoming a pressing issue. In the US, a growing number of schools are restricting, if not completely banning, the use of mobile phones. This article takes a close look at what causes screen addiction among kids and how parents of school-going kids can do their bit to stop the habit from getting out of control. First, let me start with an example: 'Rya was an enthusiastic student who enjoyed completing his homework promptly. But lately his grades have started slipping. Time and effort invested in his studies are now being spent on digital devices. There is decreased interest in attending school, disinterest in playing outdoors, and on his days off, he spends most of his time playing video games, sometimes well into the night. As a result, he struggles to wake up on time for school, leading to fatigue and irritability during the day. He becomes defensive and agitated when confronted about his screen time. Communication breakdowns have led to increased tension in the household, with Rya feeling misunderstood and his parents frustrated.'

Addictive substances trigger an outsized response in the brain. Drugs of abuse—such as opioids, cocaine, or nicotine—cause dopamine to flood the reward pathway, multiple times more than a natural reward (exercise, reading, chocolates). The brain remembers this

surge and associates it with the addictive substance and establishes a reward pathway, creating a vicious cycle, and encouraging the user to consume the substance repeatedly.

Screen addictions have the same mechanism as substances, creating a similar spike in dopamine. With a chronic increase in screen usage, the brain's circuits adapt and become less sensitive to dopamine. Consequently, what you see is an increased need to consume more to experience the same pleasure.

A common misconception is that addiction is a choice or moral problem. Nothing could be further from the truth. After a certain point, addiction becomes a biological problem with implications on physical and emotional wellbeing. There is an explicit need for parents to intervene, to model the right behaviors and teach their children screen management as a life skill.

The difficulty with setting boundaries

Parents of young kids often struggle in setting boundaries. This is rooted in multiple factors including the time taken to monitor usage, conflicts at home with the child, or social norms where other children have access to devices. Parents often feel they lack the skills and expertise to monitor usage with boundaries often being circumvented.

In other cases, there is a lack of consensus between parents (if both are available) on how to monitor usage with the stricter parent becoming the "villain" of the story. In social media, or school parent WhatsApp groups, students whose parents speak up often experience the backlash from their peers in school.

How to set strict boundaries for healthy screen time

While there may be inherent difficulties in setting boundaries, here are some steps you can take to implement them effectively:

Maintaining hygiene: Ensure that all devices in your house are identified and password protected. Oftentimes, older devices are often found

to be used by younger children. Parental controls need to be turned "ON" for younger kids. While this may seem challenging with children who have a phone, it is not impossible to ask your child to share their phone passwords. Note: this is not an infringement of privacy, it is for their safety and wellbeing. Encouraging the use of desktops versus laptops, and watching content on TV as opposed to personal devices create automatic barriers in consuming harmful content.

Establishing balance: While your child may be using a screen, it is important to check if other aspects of their life like playing sports, their friendships, academics, health, sleep, appetite and self esteem are unaffected.

Setting reasonable limits: Avoid total denial of digital access; instead, reinforce positive behaviors with rewards. Implement consequences for disregarding agreed-upon boundaries, such as reducing screen time for breaking rules.

Leading by example: Children look up to their parents to model their behavior. What you do as a parent is more important than what you say. Modeling healthy digital habits, sharing your own struggles and management techniques with digital technology appropriately could allow your child to speak up about their difficulties and follow your example.

Staying the path: Expect initial resistance. Your child may throw more tantrums or beg for screen time more intensely at first, before the behavior eventually decreases. This is referred to as an "extinction burst" in response to the reinforcement (unlimited screen time) being withheld. It is important to reward well in the beginning for compliance.

Seeking professional help: Like in the case of Rya, if you find an alarming decline in your child's grades, persistent school refusal or charged conflicts in parent-child relationships while setting boundaries, it would be wise to seek professional

help.

A digital hygiene guide for parents of toddlers to teens

If you have a kid aged 0-6 years:

Set minimal screen time. There should be absolutely no access to handheld devices without parental engagement. This includes giving your child a phone during social engagements or at a restaurant.

Speak and be curious with your child about the content they are watching. This helps with cognitive development.

If you have a kid between 6-12 years:

Build rules and regulations around screen time.

Keep a close watch on what content they are watching, searching and listening to.

Make sure they cannot download apps without your supervision.

For children between 13-18 years:

Invite the older adolescent to share their screen time data.

Discuss how screen time impacts your productivity.

Encourage them to keep their room door ajar as much as possible but don't enter the room too frequently.

Screen addiction is a real problem exacerbated by the pandemic affecting adults and children alike. Parents need to stay alert, active and engaged in their child's screen consumption patterns. Exploring digital platforms and having an informed view of your child's world can give you better language to talk to them about your apprehensions. Setting boundaries may seem difficult in the short term but over the long term will pay huge dividends.

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

# Panthers Bhim pays tributes to Jammu student martyrs

**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Oct 18: Senior leaders of J&K National Panthers Party Bhim under the leadership of its President Vilakshan Singh paid rich tributes to the Jammu Student Martyrs who were martyred by police bullets during the Congress rule in J&K in a movement led by Prof. Bhim Singh. In 1966, the students had launched a movement under the leadership of Bhim Singh.

Three students Brij Mohan, Subhash Chandra and Gulshan Handa were killed in GGM college premises on October 16, whereas a student leader, Gurcharan Singh, was killed on October 18, 1966, in Kanak Mandi,



Jammu, when a students' procession was marching through the streets of Jammu. Vilakshan Singh while paying homage to stu-

dent martyrs recalled that Prof Bhim Singh who was the Chief Organizer of the student movement escaped the police bullets. On 18th October,

1966 thousands of students marching through the Jammu streets led by Students Congress under the leadership of Prof. Bhim Singh in protest demanding to bring all murderers to justice were showered with bullets resulting into martyrdom of Gurcharan Singh. Hundreds of students and youth were injured. Some of them lost their arms or legs. There were orders by the government to catch or kill student leader, Bhim Singh.

While paying tributes to the student martyrs, Vilakshan Singh praised their sacrifices, which has brought not one university but many other Institutions in Jammu Pradesh with several professional colleges. Singh said that under the present dispensation also whatever Jammu gets is through agitations only. He said the present generation must not forget the supreme sacrifices of the student martyrs who laid down their lives while fighting against injustice meted out to Jammu province by the then ruling parties. He appealed to all student organizations in J&K from the school to the university level to get organized so that we can effectively fight against the forces discriminating against the Dogras. Others who also paid tributes to the student martyrs included, Naresh Chib, Rakesh Gupta, Sanjeev Verma, Sanju Bhagat and others.

# Regional meet of Samparak held in Jammu

**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Oct 18: A regional meeting of Samparak was convened near the Revenue Training Institute in Gole Gujral, presided over by National Member Ashok Gupta. The event was attended by Regional Secretary Rajesh Baru, State Vice President Vijay Sharma (Retd. DC), and various branch representatives, including Samparak Parmukh Vivekanand, Ram Sarup Kapai (Retd. AEE), and others who participated digitally. In his presidential address, Ashok Gupta outlined detailed guidelines from the Centre, emphasizing the importance of engaging elite members of society to support the poor and



downtrodden in the state. The Regional Joint General Secretary, Gopal Sharma, highlighted the necessity of holding regional meetings every quarter to strengthen organizational efforts. Regional Secretary Baru stressed a practical approach, calling for branch-wise gatherings

and urging members to invite at least five participants from each branch to enhance community service initiatives. The State Vice President concluded the meeting with a vote of thanks. Attendees enjoyed tea and pakoras, fostering camaraderie among members.

# Army conducts coordinating conference for women volleyball championship-2024



**Top News Report**

KUPWARA, Oct 18: In its continuous efforts to boost the spirit of sports among the young girls of Kupwara and enable them to showcase their talent in this field Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers held a coordinating conference with the team coaches captains of 10 teams from various parts of Kupwara Dist for conducting Women Volleyball Championship -24

Second Edition. This coordinating conference was presided over by Second-in-Command Kupwara Terriers and was attended by 10 coaches and 13 female players. Women Volleyball Championship -24 is scheduled to start from 21 Oct 24. The aim of the Championship is to decrease the level of stress and shyness among the young girls of remote area of Kupwara. This tournament will

enable them to refresh their mind after having toiled hard for other activities of the life. This Volleyball Championship for girls is having its own importance where young girls are given opportunity to prove themselves in the field of volleyball. Indian Army is committed to engage and uplift the women of Kashmir and empower them to become physically strong and mentally robust and positive.

# PSAJK urges J&K Govt for session change, abolition of unnecessary NOCs, reforms in education sector

**Top News Report**

SRINAGAR, Oct 18: The Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) extended its heartfelt congratulations to Omar Abdullah on his appointment as the new Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dy. CM Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Sakeena Ito for being entrusted with the important portfolios of Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education, Social Welfare departments and Cabinet Ministers. G.N. Var, President of PSAJK, along with the Executive Body, including Vice-President Manzoor Ahmad Rather, General Secretary Faisal Islam Mir, Chief Organiser Shah Gulzar, Divisional Organisers Abdul Majeed Bhat, Mohd Ashraf, Khur-

shid Bismil, and District Presidents Bilal Bhat (Srinagar), Mohd Syed Wani (Anantnag), Waseem Siddique (Kulgam), Nazir Ahmad (Kupwara), Javeed Ahmad (Shopian), Nazrul Islam (Budgam), Bashir Ahmad (Ganderbal), Wahid Banday (Poonch), and Shafiq ul Islam (Ramban), have expressed optimism that the new government will take bold steps to resolve the pressing challenges faced by the education sector in the region. PSAJK believes that strong leadership is vital to bring about meaningful reforms in education, which is a cornerstone for societal progress. "We are hopeful that the new government, under the leadership of Omar Abdullah and the dynamic expertise of Education Minister Sakeena Ito, will



address the long-standing issues that have hindered the growth of private education sector in Jammu and Kashmir" said G.N. Var. The private education sector in Jammu and Kashmir faces persistent challenges due to cumbersome regulations and bureaucratic delays. Schools often struggle with timely approvals for expansions, upgrading of facilities, and other operational issues. PSAJK urges the government to streamline these processes, making it easier for private schools to function

efficiently and effectively. Among the burning issues that PSAJK hopes the new government will prioritize are the long-awaited session change from March to November, the abolition of unnecessary No Objection Certificates (NOCs), exemption of budget schools from obtaining Fee Fixation and Regulation Committee (FFRC) approval, land ownership issues, renewal of school registrations and other issues etc. These hurdles have long hampered the smooth operation and growth of private schools in the region. PSAJK and its leadership remain committed to working collaboratively with the government to address these challenges head-on. "We are ready to work hand-in-hand with the new government

to ensure that the education system in Jammu and Kashmir becomes one of the best in the country. The future of our children depends on the actions we take today, and we hope this government will prioritize these issues," said Var. The PSAJK Executive Body, including General Secretary Faisal Islam Mir and Chief Organiser Shah Gulzar, further emphasized the importance of ongoing dialogue between the government and private schools to find lasting solutions to these pressing issues. The PSAJK looks forward to proactive engagement with the newly formed government to uplift the education sector and address the challenges faced by private schools in Jammu and Kashmir.

# Five days Dogra Festival celebration concludes in GDC Marheen



**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Oct 18: The five days long Dogra Festival celebration based on the theme, "Panjh Din, Panjh Rangh, Dogra Sanskriti Sangh", in Govt. Degree College (GDC) Marheen, just to conclude this event in a memorable manner, a valedictory function was organized to mark the end of this impressive celebrations.

But prior to this valedictory function, a small exhibition of the goods and articles related to Dogra culture were also displayed with their note tags. The students of the college also presented a glimpse of a local festival named as Rahde celebration in which they pray for the long and healthy lifespan of their brothers and also symbolically pray for bountiful crops. Rahde Festival was followed by a Dogra Feast commonly termed as Dogra Dhaam in which all the local Dogra Dishes that are included in Dogra cuisine was displayed served to all the faculty

and students who witnessed this five day long Dogra Festival Celebrations. Three food items served include Rajmah Rice with Anardana chutney, Alloo curry with Babroo, Sweet Rice, Qear, Mandra, Dal-Rice- Ambal, Malpure, Gulra, Murraba. During the valedictory function the Principal Prof (Dr.) Anupama Gupta, open her heart to mention the contentment she felt during these five day long Dogra Festival due to the manner the students presented Dogra culture in true and real sense. She appreciated the hardwork and endeavour of the students and the faculty members as a team to make this event really a success. She praised the efforts taken by them in the displaying of articles related to Dogra culture and traditions, or the Dogra Folk songs or Folk Dance, and more often the celebration of Rahde followed by Dogra Feast (Dhaam). She declared that she felt during these five days as if she was really ven-

tured in a typical Dogra village and witnessed all the celebrations as if in real. Later the convener of this five day long Dogra Festival celebration Prof Sandeep Chaudhary, first read the brief report comprising of the events and items presented during these five days. He further appreciated the talent of the students who presented and gave various life like performance. He appreciated the role of Dr. Shailu Rani HOD of Dogri who due to her expertise in Dogri culture, managed and encouraged the students to make this event a big success. The vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Anoop Sharma Convener of IQAC. The other faculty members who were present there to witness the colorful and purposeful event were, Prof (Dr.) Arun Dev Singh, Dr. Balbinder Singh, Dr. Muni-sha Devi, Prof Manu Saini, Prof Suman, Dr. Meenu Sharma and Prof Naresh Kumar.

# IIM Jammu, NITTR Chennai partner for Yuva Sangam Phase-V under EBSB

**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Oct 18: IIM Jammu and the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTR), Chennai, are happy to announce that IIM Jammu has been designated as the nodal institute for Yuva Sangam Phase V, a student exchange programme under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) initiative. This significant program aims to foster empathy and strengthen people-to-people connections between the youth of Jammu & Kashmir and Chennai. Through this initiative, students will have the opportunity to build stronger national bonds while appreciating the diversity and richness of India's cultural fabric. As part of Yuva Sangam Phase V, students will gain multi-dimensional exposure across five key areas: Paryatan (Tourism), Parampara (Traditions), Pragati (Development), Paraspar Sampark (People-to-People Connect), and Prodyogiki (Technology). Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, emphasized the significance of the program, noting that the Yuva Sangam Phase V, initiative under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat offers a remarkable platform for youth to explore and experience the diversity of the nation. He highlighted that it helps build strong connections across cultures, which are essential

for fostering a sense of unity and national pride. He expressed that IIM Jammu is proud to be part of this transformative journey and looks forward to empowering young minds through the exchange program. IIM Jammu will serve as the nodal institute responsible for selecting students from Jammu & Kashmir. These students will embark on a week-long immersive experience at NITTR Chennai, where they will explore the southern region, interact with local communities, and engage with the rich art, culture, and traditions of the state. Similarly, students from NITTR Chennai will visit Jammu, gaining exposure to the northern region's heritage, development initiatives, and technological advancements. The last date for online registration is October 21, 2024. Selection will be based on the criteria set by the Government of India, from among those who register through the portal. Details, about the travel itinerary and visit dates will be shared with the selected candidates. If you're eager to be part of this incredible journey and experience the unique heritage and lifestyle of the South and Jammu, register now at <https://ebsb.aicte-india.org/#>. For any queries or additional information, participants can directly reach out via email at [ebsb@iimj.ac.in](mailto:ebsb@iimj.ac.in).

# Chandel calls for action against NC MLA over National Anthem incident

**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Oct 18: BJP leader Raju Chandel addressed journalists today, condemning a National Conference MLA for failing to stand during the national anthem at the recent swearing-in ceremony of the Chief Minister in Jammu and Kashmir. Chandel characterized the act as disrespectful and called for the MLA's membership to be suspended, asserting that such behavior is unacceptable in a democratic



India. Chandel praised Foreign Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar for delivering a strong message to Pakistan during a recent SCO meeting, likening his actions to those of Lord Hanuman in his quest against evil. He emphasized that the minister's efforts have elevated India's standing on the global stage. In light of the MLA's actions, Chandel stated that a case of treason should be filed, asserting that those who do not respect the national anthem have no right to serve as elected representatives in India. Chandel's comments reflect a broader call for accountability among public officials, reinforcing the importance of patriotism and respect for national symbols.

# Amar Singh Club celebrates Karwa Chauth festival



**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Oct 18: Two day Exhibition and Musical Night to celebrate the auspicious festival of Karwa Chauth started at Amar Singh Club on Friday. The exhibition included various stalls like mehendi, designer dresses, footwear, bangles, decoration materials, book stall mehendi, designer dresses, footwear, bangles, decoration materials, book stall and paintings.

The event was inaugurated by Anita Kapahi, wife of the Secretary of the Club, Veena Handa a renowned Educationist and Socialite, Anil Kapahi, the Secretary of the Club along with the other executive members of the Club. The event also saw famous Astrologer Yagendra checking the horoscopes of members interested in knowing their future. In the evening Tambola was organised for the members of

the Club and this was followed by a musical performance by Deepak Kumar. Secretary of the Club, Anil Kapahi, thanked the team, especially Ritika Mahajan, Renu Nanda, and Deepali Handa for their efforts in organising this fun-filled program. Notable attendees included Vikram Gujral, Naresh Gupta, Amit Mahajan, and Dr. Vikram Handa, Deepak Kumar and Tambola horoscope Yogender.

## Salman Khan gets fresh threat on WhatsApp, pay Rs 5 cr or face fate of Baba Siddique

*'Don't take it lightly, if Salman wants to stay alive and end enmity with Bishnoi, then he will have to pay Rs 5 crore'*

The Mumbai traffic police received a threat message demanding Rs 5 crore extortion money from Bollywood actor Salman Khan, claiming to resolve his conflict with imprisoned gangster Lawrence Bishnoi.

The person who sent the message claimed to be close to Lawrence Bishnoi gang and claimed to put the actor's life in danger if not provided with the extortion money.

According to Mumbai police, "A threatening message has been received on the WhatsApp number of Mumbai Traffic Police, demanding Rs 5 crore from actor Salman Khan to end his long-standing rivalry with Lawrence Bishnoi." The sender claimed, "Don't take it lightly, if Salman Khan wants to stay alive and wants to end the enmity with Lawrence Bishnoi, then he will have to pay Rs 5 crore. If the money is not given, Salman Khan's condition will be worse than Baba Siddique." The



Mumbai Police has taken the matter very seriously and has started investigating the case.

The incident comes in the backdrop of the recent murder of NCP leader Baba Siddique. Earlier on Thursday, the Mumbai Police issued a look-out circular (LOC) for Shiv Kumar Gautam and Zeeshan Akhtar who shot at NCP leader Baba Siddique.

The Mumbai Police had initial-

ly issued a Look Out Circular against only Shubham Lonkar, and now it has issued it against these two as well, police suspect that they might flee to Nepal.

According to the police, the information about the accused has been given at every border and airport and the search for the accused is ongoing.

Zeeshan Siddique, son of NCP leader Baba Siddique demanded justice for his father

and family and appealed for his father's death not to be politicised or allowed to go in vain.

So far, the Mumbai Crime Branch has arrested four accused, while three remain at large, with police actively searching for them.

Days after Baba Siddique was shot dead in Mumbai, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde reiterated on Wednesday that those responsible for such crimes would be held accountable and not go unpunished.

"No one will be spared. Strict action will be taken against whoever is found guilty," the Maharashtra CM said.

The NCP leader and former Maharashtra Minister Siddique was shot outside his office in Nirmal Nagar.

He sustained two gunshot wounds to the chest and was taken to Mumbai's Lilavati Hospital for emergency treatment, where he succumbed to his injuries on October 12.

## Actor Somy Ali invites Lawrence Bishnoi for a Zoom call



Former model and actor Somy Ali has reached out to Lawrence Bishnoi via social media and requested an audience with the jailed gangster over a Zoom call, saying she has some details

to share that would "benefit" him.

Her post came days after the murder of NCP leader and former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique, who police say may have been targeted by Bishnoi because of his proximity to actor Salman Khan.

Ali, who was believed to be in a relationship with Khan back in the 1990s, sent a "direct message" to Bishnoi through an Instagram post.

"Namaste, Lawrence bhai, I've heard and seen that you are able to do Zoom calls despite being in jail. I want to speak to you. Please let me know whether we can arrange something. Rajasthan is my most favourite place in the world. I want to visit your temple there.

"But if we would speak over a Zoom call before that... Trust me, this will benefit you. Share your mobile number, it would be a great favour. Thank you," she wrote alongside a photo of the gangster who is currently lodged in Gujarat's Sabarmati Jail.

The Navi Mumbai police have arrested a member of the Bishnoi gang in connection with an alleged plot to kill Khan, an official said.

Sukha alias Sukhbir Balbir Singh was apprehended from Panipat in Haryana by a team of Panvel Town police (in Navi Mumbai), he said.

He had allegedly contracted the Bishnoi gang members to kill Khan, the official said.

## Selena Gomez opens up about mental health struggles

In a candid discussion at Wondermind's inaugural Mental Fitness Summit, Selena Gomez revealed the profound impact her mental health challenges have had on her personal life, particularly her relationship with her bedroom.

The summit held virtually on World Mental Health Day, served as the platform for Gomez to share her experiences and insights into her ongoing mental health journey.

Gomez, the star of *Only Murders in the Building*, spoke openly about why she no longer feels comfortable sleeping in her own bedroom. "I spent too much time in my bedroom that I actually don't even sleep in my bedroom anymore," she explained. She added, "I associate it with a really dark time."

The 32-year-old artist described the debilitating nature of anxiety, reflecting on how it kept her from leaving her bed for years.

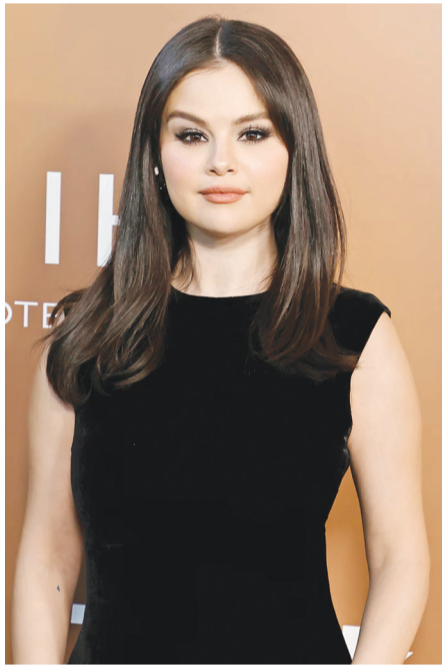
"You have to believe in yourself and do the work that will truly enlighten you a little bit," she emphasised, underscoring the importance of personal growth in overcoming mental health challenges.

During her talk, Gomez recounted a particularly restless night leading up to the summit.

"As recent as last night, I was in bed and I couldn't fall asleep 'til about four, and it was just because my mind was simply racing," she said. "I just kept saying over and over again, 'This will pass. Just let it go through your body and it'll go away,' and of course, eventually, I fell asleep," she added.

Having previously opened up about her battles with anxiety, depression, and bipolar disorder, Gomez highlighted the value of discussing her struggles with trusted individuals.

She expressed gratitude for the support of her mother, Mandy Teefey, with whom she co-founded Wondermind.



"I still have days where I need my mom," Gomez shared. "And then there are also moments for me, I just allow myself to be vulnerable and cry and just talk it out." Gomez also spoke about the liberation she found in sharing her mental health journey.

"I tend to isolate. There are moments, of course, where you need to be on your own and feel things," she noted.

"I didn't accept help; I just wouldn't. And I found complete freedom in sharing everything I've been walking through because I know that other people feel that way too," the 'Rare' star added.

She concluded by emphasizing the importance of acknowledging mental health struggles.

"I hope no one ever looks at me and thinks, 'Oh, her life is perfect.' Because that's just simply not true," Gomez stated, adding, "We're all humans, and feelings are very real. I think it definitely needs to be talked about, and we need to educate people more about it."

## Filmmaker Amitoj Mann's recent film Sucha Soorma is based on a legendary figure in Punjabi history

Historical narratives have been the focus of the film industry since its inception, and Punjabi cinema has time and again embraced this evergreen trend. But it's not just a chapter from the past, it's about recreating a world with all its authenticity and appeal in place. Filmmaker Amitoj Mann recently brought to life *Sucha Soorma*, a legendary figure in Punjabi history known for his bravery and dedication to the cause of Independence.

Set in 1915, the film not alone explores its titular character but gives a peek into the rich cultural and historical context of that time. In a conversation with us, Amitoj Mann shares his insights on the challenges of historical storytelling, the evolving landscape of Punjabi cinema and the significance of connecting with one's roots through film. Through his cinematic journey, he invites viewers to reflect on the past and its relevance in today's world.

Amitoj begins by explaining the intent behind revisiting a piece of history that dates back over a century. He states, "Even if you observe world cinema, people are drawn to history. I began with



old Punjab in my movie *Hani* in 2013, and since then there have been many films set in that era. People loved them because they wanted to connect with their past."

He emphasises that while historical films can be challenging to create, they allow filmmakers to explore cultural nuances authentically. "There's a sense of responsibility attached to them," he notes, highlighting the detailed research required to accurately portray the era.

When asked about the effort that went into bringing *Sucha Soorma* to life, Amitoj reveals, "We were actually set to release it in 2019, but due to some

misunderstandings, and then Covid, it finally released now." The film may have been shot in 45 days, but he highlights the importance of pre-production, noting that it took over a year-and-a-half to prepare for the film. "A good film is one which gives enough time to its preparation. Although most of the crew members are from the Malwa region, so we knew the cultural nuances — the way people talked, behaved, and so on, but there was still enough research involved," he shares.

Entertainment remains the core of cinema, but the responsibility around its message is as central to every film. So,

when it comes to the deeper message within *Sucha Soorma*, Amitoj says, "Not every movie needs to have a message—some are purely for entertainment... Our challenge was to balance authenticity with engagement." He stresses the importance of portraying multiple perspectives in storytelling, stating, "We need to understand different perspectives without biases. And my effort was to show the characters in totality. No person is black or white, there is the grey too."

Going by the event on which the movie is based, is *Sucha* a hero in his eyes? Amitoj responds affirmatively, saying, "He has certain dialogues, and there are answers given by *Sucha*...they tell you what the society at that point of time thought. I'm not justifying anyone but simply showcasing how things were and how they are." He believes in allowing the audience to interpret the characters and their actions. "If the film can't convey its message, there's no point in me answering them here in an interview," he adds.

And what goes into the casting process, particularly his collaboration with Babbar Azmi

that too after years. The director says, "When we started talking about this movie, someone suggested that Babbar would be perfect for the character of *Sucha*. I agreed because I could see that his mannerisms aligned with *Sucha*'s character." Speaking warmly about their friendship and the ease of working together again, he simply says, "Past is past and so are the gaps."

With decades of experience in both Bollywood and Punjabi cinema, a word about the home industry was inevitable. "I think we are maturing but there are still so many untouched subjects, like purana Punjab," he notes. He points out the different audio levels used in Punjabi films compared to Hindi and English, calling for improvement in production quality. "Every little thing matters, and we need to educate ourselves on these details," he urges. Amitoj reflects on the power of cinema to represent culture and influence perceptions. "If the cinema is bad, it reflects poorly on Punjab everywhere... these cameras are like weapons that can cause large-scale damage, so they must be wielded with care," he states.

## Madhur Bhandarkar to show stark realities of Hindi film industry with 'Wives of Bollywood'

National Award-winning filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar, is set to tell another explosive story, this time from the glamorous world of Bollywood.

While the filmmaker has earlier directed films like 'Fashion', 'Page 3', 'Chandni Bar' and 'Heroine', this time the story will follow the Bollywood wives of the stars of the Hindi film industry.

His latest project 'Wives of Bollywood' promises to shed light on the unseen facets of the glamorous lives that the wives of Bollywood star-wives lead, peppered with scandal,

gossip, power struggles and eye-popping luxury.

Talking about the film, Madhur Bhandarkar said, "There is a lot of speculation around the lives of Bollywood star wives, the aim is to bring these untold stories inspired by real incidents, on big screen".

The director is known for his hard-hitting critically acclaimed and commercially successful films that portray the stark realities of society. With a career spanning over two decades and a reputation for making films that critique societal injustices, his next



film is expected to offer a bold commentary on the social life of the entertainment industry.

Producer Pranav Jain said, "We are thrilled to collaborate with Madhur sir once again after the success of 'India Lockdown'. He has a reputation for creating authentic films, and this topic promises to be explosive, given the intrigue surrounding the lives of celebrity wives at home and in social settings".

Produced by Bhandarkar Entertainment and P J Motion Pictures, the film is expected to go on floors early next year.

## Kangana Ranaut-starrer Emergency has been finally passed by the Central Board of Film Certification



'Received the censor certificate' Kangana Ranaut starrer 'Emergency' has been finally passed by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). Kangana on X handle to share the news with her fans.

"We are glad to announce we have received the censor certificate for our movie Emergency, we will be announcing the release date soon. Thank you for your patience and support," her post read.

Earlier in September, Kangana Ranaut, in an interview, had opened up about the repercussions being faced

by the makers of the 'Emergency' due to delay in the release of the film.

"I know how I made this film... I did not get any support from the film industry. It's made on a huge budget. I along with Zee and other partners created Emergency, and now with the release delay, everyone is bearing a huge loss. Delay release is a loss for all. I think the Censor Board should take the responsibility to release this film at the earliest," she said.

The film, a biographical political thriller, delves into the life of Indira Gandhi, who imposed a 21-month emergency period from 1975 to 1977. 'Emergency' has been embroiled in controversies for some time now including facing backlash several Sikh groups.

Produced by Zee Studios and Manikarnika Films, the film is set against the backdrop of one of India's most tumultuous political periods and promises to be a portrayal of historical events.

## PM Modi to visit Russia from Oct 22-23 to attend BRICS Summit



NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Russia from October 22-23 at the invitation of President Vladimir Putin to attend the 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, the MEA said on Friday.

During his visit, the prime minister is also expected to hold bilat-

eral meetings with his counterparts from BRICS member countries and invited leaders in Kazan, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

The theme of this year's summit is "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security". It will

provide an important platform for leaders to discuss key global issues, it said.

"The summit will offer a valuable opportunity to assess the progress of initiatives launched by BRICS and to identify potential areas for future collaboration," the ministry said.

## PM Modi to launch National Learning Week

NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the 'Karmayogi Saptah'— National Learning Week— on Saturday, with the exercise seeking to impart fresh impetus towards individual and organisational capacity development for civil servants, his office said.

It noted that the 'Mission Karmayogi' was launched in September 2020, and it has made substantial progress since then. It envisions a future-ready civil service rooted in Indian ethos, with a global perspective, it added.

The National Learning Week (NLW) will be the largest event of its kind providing fresh impetus towards individual and organisational capacity development for civil servants.



This initiative will stimulate a renewed commitment to learning and development. The NLW aims to create a "One Government" message, align everyone with national goals and promote lifelong learning, the

statement said.

The NLW will be dedicated to learning through various forms of engagement by individual participants and ministries, departments and organizations.

During NLW, each "karmayogi" will commit to achieving a target of at least four hours of competency-linked learning.

The participants may complete the targeted hours through a mix of individual role-based modules on iGOT, webinars (public lectures/policy master classes) by eminent persons.

During the week, eminent speakers will deliver talks on their areas of prominence and help them work towards citizen-centric delivery in a much more effective manner, the statement said.

During the week, the ministries, departments and organisations will also organise seminars and workshops to enhance domain specific competencies, it added.

## 2 killed in a house fire in Delhi's Shahdara, 2 children rescued

NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): A fire broke out in a residential building in Delhi's Shahdara area on Friday morning, resulting in death of two individuals.

A call regarding the fire was received at 5:25 am, following which six fire tenders were rushed to Bhola Nath Nagar to douse the fire. Two children were rescued from the spot.

According to local residents, the blaze erupted around 5:05 am, causing chaos and panic. Eyewitnesses recalled the alarming scenes as flames engulfed the building in seconds.

One eyewitness said, "I was standing on my balcony, performing prayers when I noticed the fire. It sounded like fireworks. I assumed it was a short circuit and immediately called the fire brigade. Unfortunately, fire trucks experienced significant delays due to parked vehicles obstructing their path, which exacerbated the situation."

According to the residents, it took approximately an hour and a half for fire tenders to arrive at the spot. This apparently allowed fire to intensify and engulf the whole building, leading to



injuries and fatalities.

Two individuals were killed in the fire. They were identified as, 42 year-old Shilpi Gupta and 16 year-old Pranav Gupta. Their bodies were taken out from inside the apartment by the firefighters. Preliminary investigations suggested they died of suffocation.

Manoj Kumar Shetty, a family member, said that the cause of death was suffocation.

"I had stopped the lift and gas pipeline, but it was too late for them," he said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, however, initial reports point to an electric malfunction.

Two children were rescued from the spot and transported to the hospital for treatment.

## 10 more die after 'consuming illicit liquor' in Bihar, toll rises to 35

PATNA, Oct 18 (Agencies): Ten more people died after allegedly consuming illicit liquor in Bihar's Siwan and Saran districts, taking the toll in the hooch tragedy to 35, an official said on Friday.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Saran range, Nilesh Kumar said on Friday that while Siwan accounted for 28 fatalities, seven deaths have been reported from Saran.

"As many as 28 people in Maghar and Auriya panchayats in Siwan district have so far died after consuming suspected illicit liquor. Seven people in Ibrahimpur area under the jurisdiction of Mashrak police station in Saran district also died after consuming suspected spurious liquor", the DIG told agency on Friday.

The suspected hooch tragedy has triggered a political blame game with opposition parties questioning the efficacy of the ban on sale and consumption of liquor, imposed by the Nitish

Kumar government more than eight years ago. Locals in both districts claimed that people lost their lives after "consuming illicit liquor".

On the condition of anonymity local police officials claimed that more than 25 people from both districts are still battling for their lives at different hospitals in Siwan, Saran and Patna districts.

The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examinations and the exact cause of the incident can only be known after receiving the autopsy reports, the DIG said. Officials have so far not disclosed the identity of the deceased and those under treatment.

Director General of Police Alok Raj on Thursday told PTI Video, "Two special investigating teams have also been set up in the aftermath of the incident. The one set up at the local level will be looking into the criminality involved in the latest episode.

Another SIT has been set up by the Department of Prohibition in Patna which will carry out a comprehensive study of all such incidents that have taken place in the recent past, based upon which a plan of action will be drawn out".

Around 15 people have been arrested so far by the police in connection with incidents in both districts. The administrations of both districts have suspended three chowkidars of Maghar, Auriya and Ibrahimpur areas following the incident. Another senior police officer said show cause notices have been issued to at least five police personnel.

On Thursday, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inquired about the progress of the investigation into the suspected hooch deaths in Siwan and Saran. The CM directed the DGP to personally monitor the situation and ensure that "strict action is taken against those involved in the crime".

The CM also directed Department of Prohibition and Excise Secretary Vinod Singh Gunjyal and the Bihar Police ADG (Prohibition) to personally visit the areas where the incident took place and thoroughly investigate the matter.

Commenting on the incident, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, on Friday in a post on X wrote, "Bihar CM Nitish Kumar should be blamed for the latest hooch deaths in the state. It's a mass murder..... Liquor ban is an example of Nitish Kumar-led government's institutional corruption. If liquor ban has been implemented then it is the government's responsibility to implement it efficiently.

"But it's not happening.... liquor ban is super flop in Bihar today. Due to the unholy nexus between ruling politicians-police and liquor mafia, a black market of illegal liquor, worth more than Rs 30,000 crore has flourished in Bihar... According to state

government records, number of people who died due to consumption of spurious liquor is more than 300. Who is their killer?"

Reacting to the incident, Bihar BJP chief Dilip Jaiswal told reporters on Friday that all those behind the incident will be nabbed very soon.

"The incident is very tragic...all those who are behind the incident will be nabbed very soon. The NDA government in the state is committed to enforce the liquor ban effectively in the state. Till the time liquor was sold in Bihar, a lot of crimes were reported taking place, especially against women.

"Those who are seeking removal of liquor ban in the state, have nexus with the liquor mafia ... We (our government) can't think of generating revenue and earning money after lifting the liquor ban as it is being demanded by a section of leaders... " Jaiswal said.

## Law on prevention of child marriages can't be stunted by personal laws: SC

NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday held that the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act cannot be stunted by personal laws and that marriages involving children violate the free will to have a life partner of choice.

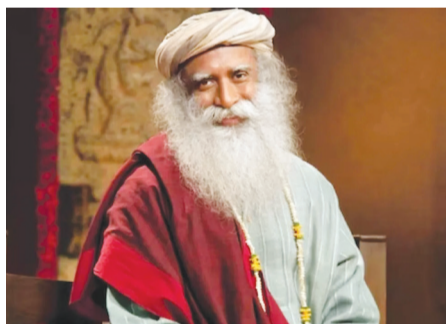
A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also issued a slew of guidelines for effective implementation of the law on prevention of child marriages in the country.

Reading out the judgement, the CJI said the law on prevention of child marriages cannot be stunted by the personal law. Such marriages are violative of minors' free will to choose life, it said.

The authorities must focus on child marriage prevention and protection of minors while penalising offenders as a last resort. The bench also noted that the law on Prohibition of Child Marriage has certain gaps. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 was enacted to prevent child marriages and ensure their eradication from society. The Act replaced the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929.

"Preventive strategy should be tailored to different communities, the law will only succeed when there is a multi sectoral coordination. Training and capacity building of the law enforcement officers needs to be there. We emphasise that there needs to be community driven approaches," the bench said.

## In big relief for Jaggi Vasudev; SC closes proceedings against Isha Foundation



NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday closed the proceedings in a habeas corpus petition filed by a man who had alleged that his two daughters were held captive inside the premises of spiritual leader Jaggi Vasudev's Isha Foundation at Coimbatore.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud noted that both the women were major and have stated that they were residing at the ashram voluntarily and without any coercion.

A habeas corpus petition is filed seeking direction to produce before the court a person who is missing or has been illegally detained.

The bench, also comprising Justices

JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, also noted that in pursuance of its October 3 order, the police has submitted a status report before it. The bench observed it would be unnecessary for the apex court to expand upon the ambit of these proceedings which arises from a habeas corpus petition which was initially filed before the Madras High Court.

On October 3, the top court had effectively halted the police probe into the alleged illegal confinement of two women at the Foundation's ashram at Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

Transferring to itself the habeas corpus petition which was filed before the high court, the top court had directed the Tamil Nadu Police to not take any further action in pursuance of the high court's direction asking it to inquire into the alleged illegal confinement of the women.

The apex court had passed the order after the Isha Foundation approached it challenging the high court's order directing the Coimbatore Police to collect all case details registered against the Foundation and produce them before the court for further consideration.

## Massive fire at Kolkata hospital, patient dies in ICU



KOLKATA, Oct 18 (Agencies): A massive fire broke out at a government hospital in central Kolkata this morning. At least 10 fire engines were rushed to the Sealdah area to put off the fire at the ESI hospital, officials said.

A patient died in the hospital's ICU while about 80 others were safely evacuated, said a fire official. The exact

cause of the patient's death is not known yet and there was no other report of any injury.

The fire reportedly broke out in one of the wards and it was brought under control before it could spread to other parts of the hospital. The cause of the fire is not known yet.

Visuals from the spot showed a few patients sitting outside the hos-

pital along with their caregivers. The patients were later shifted to other hospitals for treatment.

West Bengal Fire and Emergency Services Minister Sujit Bose rushed to the hospital after receiving the report of the fire.

District Fire Officer TK Dutta described the incident as "terrifying".

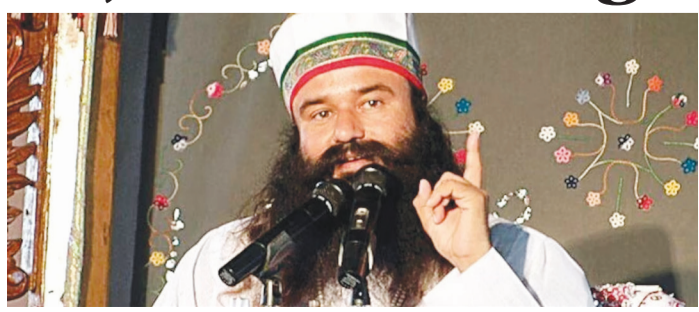
"Nearly 80 patients were trapped inside. Within 20 minutes, we successfully rescued them all. One patient who was admitted to the ICU died, but there is no other casualty," he added. "There was smoke in the ward and the patients were yelling 'bachao' (save us) from the window", he said, describing the situation.

## Supreme Court clears trial against Ram Rahim in sacrilege cases, removes High Court's stay

NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): The Supreme Court today dealt a blow to rape convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, the self-styled godman and Dera Sacha Sauda chief, by lifting the stay imposed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court on the trial against him in con-

nection with the 2015 Bargari sacrilege cases.

The Supreme Court removed the judicial block that had stalled the prosecution of Ram Rahim in three sacrilege cases involving the desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib, the holy scripture of Sikhs. The Supreme



Court Bench, comprising Justices BR. Gavai and KV Viswanathan, also issued a notice to Ram Rahim, requiring his response within four weeks.

Ram Rahim is already serving a 20-year sentence for rape and also convicted for murder. The sacrilege inci-

dents in question, which took place in the Bargari area of Punjab's Faridkot district, involved the disappearance and alleged desecration of the revered Guru Granth Sahib in 2015, triggering outrage among the Sikh community.

Earlier this year, the Punjab

and Haryana High Court had stayed the proceedings against Ram Rahim in the three sacrilege cases, pausing any investigation or trial. This ruling, issued in March, was challenged by the Punjab government, which brought the matter before the Supreme Court.







## Heritage School organises second edition of Inter-House Quiz Competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 18: Heritage School once again showcased its commitment to academic excellence and holistic development with a resounding success at the second edition of its Annual Inter-House Quiz Competition. Held on October 18th, 2024, the event was a thrilling intellectual showdown that captivated students and faculty alike.

Graced by the esteemed Chairperson of Heritage school, Sunil Gupta, as the Chief Guest, the competition set the stage for a fierce battle of wits among the four Houses. Each team, comprising of four bright young minds, was put to the test across a variety of subjects, ranging from general knowledge and business acumen to Bollywood trivia and scientific concepts.

The competition kicked off with a written exam, where the top contenders were selected to participate in the grand finale. The atmosphere was electric as the four teams took to the stage, their hearts pounding



with anticipation. The strict 15-second timer for each question added to the intensity, making it a captivating experience for both participants and the audience.

The quiz kicked off with the General Knowledge Round, where teams answered questions spanning current affairs, Economics, Political Science, and historical landmarks. Each correct answer earned the team 10 points, while no penalties were imposed for incorrect responses.

In the second round, the Business Quiz, students demonstrated their knowledge of corporate logos, CEOs, and taglines. With a slight twist, wrong answers here came with a penalty, raising the stakes for each team.

The third round took an exciting turn with the Bollywood/Hollywood Quiz, featuring questions related to films, dialogues, video clips and music. Participants had to be sharp and well-versed in the world of cinema, with penalties again in place for incorrect answers.

The final and most intense part of the competition was the Bonus Round, which tested the participants' knowledge in diverse topics, from science and sports to live experiments and painting. This round introduced an exciting rule which kept the competition neck-and-neck till the end.

Between rounds, the audience was invited to participate in the exciting through interactive questions, keeping them

thoroughly engaged throughout the event.

The suspense-filled competition culminated with the team from Tradition House – represented by Vivek Singh, Saksham Sharma, Vedant Sharma and Tayib Aadil – emerging victorious. Their remarkable teamwork, sharp thinking and breadth of knowledge earned them the coveted top honours.

The Chairman, Sunil Gupta, expressed his immense pleasure in congratulating the winners and commended all participants for their exemplary performance, recognizing the event as a testament to their hard work, dedication and teamwork. He extended deep appreciation to the organizing committee for its meticulous planning

and flawless conduct of the event.

He also acknowledged the Vice Principal, Rashmi Thakur, for her guidance, and the Principal, Akash Pradhan, as the driving force behind the event.

He also highlighted the importance of competitions like quizzes, debates, and elocutions in shaping students' skills, character and overall learning. He emphasized that these activities foster critical thinking, communication and teamwork, which are crucial in today's world. Reflecting on the event, he expressed pride in the remarkable talent and dedication of the students and voiced his optimism for their bright futures.

The Second Edition of the Annual Inter-House Quiz Competition at Heritage School was a resounding success, reaffirming the school's commitment to providing a stimulating and enriching learning environment for its students. The mega event culminated with vote of thanks delivered by the Principal, Akash Pradhan.

## IIPA JKRB organizes prelude conference on "One Nation One Election"



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 18: Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), J&K Regional Branch (JKRB) organized significant prelude Conference on the theme "One Nation One Election".

Prof. Suresh Misra, Chair Professor (Consumer Affairs) at the Centre for Consumer Studies, IIPA, New Delhi, delivered the keynote address.

B.R. Sharma, IAS (Retd), State Election Commissioner and Chairman of IIPA JKRB, served as the Chief Guest, while Kuldeep Khoda, IPS (Retd), former DGP of J&K Police presided over the event.

In his keynote address, Prof. Misra underscored the vital principles of democracy, stressing the necessity for free and fair elections and acknowledged that India has a robust parliamentary system.

Prof. Misra explored the concept of simultaneous elections, referencing international examples from countries such as South Africa, Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

He traced the initiative's origins to discussions initiated by former President Pranab Mukherjee in 2017 and the subsequent formation of a high-level committee under Ram Nath Kovind.

The proposed electoral reform aims to implement a two-step process for

Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, with panchayat and local urban body elections within 100 days.

He also highlighted expected merits which include continuity of governance, greater emphasis on policy implementation, reduced expenditure and single voter list. He also acknowledged potential demerits, including the risk of overshadowing regional issues by national concerns and neglecting local needs.

He emphasized the importance of building consensus, particularly given the frequency of elections and the necessity of a Model Code of Conduct to maintain electoral integrity.

B.R. Sharma, in his address, outlined essential concepts underpinning democracy, emphasizing its mechanics and structure as crucial for fostering greater accountability.

He highlighted the significance of making democratic processes which empower citizens and enhance their engagement with the government. His insights reinforced the critical role of informed citizen participation in strengthening democracy and ensuring that governance remains transparent and responsive to the needs of the populace.

In his presidential remarks, Kuldeep Khoda emphasized the importance of collating diverse opinions to drive major electoral reforms.

He discussed the necessity of a coordinated approach in managing elections, particularly in deploying security forces to ensure a smooth electoral process.

Khoda highlighted the intersection of preservation and internal security during elections, referencing the influential contributions of T.N. Seshan, a former Chief Election Commissioner, and underscored the significance of the Delhi Elections 2019 as a case study in effective electoral management.

He however cautioned citizens to judiciously use social media to ensure that a positive and favourable environment to strengthen the democratic process.

K.B. Jandial, IAS (Retd), Vice Chairman in his welcome address set the context for the conference by discussing the multifaceted implications of the "One Nation One Election" proposal. Prof. Alka Sharma, Honorary Secretary, presented the formal vote of thanks, while the proceedings were conducted by Prof. Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary.

The program was attended by officials from the State Election Commission, media representatives, faculty and students from the University of Jammu, members of IIPA, and eminent individuals from civil society and the Central Government Pensioners Association, Jammu.

## BLSKS presents Nukkad Natak "Nashe Cha Bachho"



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 18: In a bid to further the Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan, the Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS), in coordination with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, and the Social Welfare Department of J&K, presented its 467th Friday Series Dugri Musical Play, "Nashe Cha Bachho," at the Rehearsal Hall, Durga Bhawan, Janipur, Jammu. The event was directed by Dr. M.L. Dogra and inaugurated by Chief Guest Anju Dogra from the Health Department of Jammu.

The function was graced by several dignitaries, including V.K. Magotra, former Regional Director of the Directorate of Field Publicity, and Guest of Honors Dr. Tara Singh Charak,

former Deputy Director of the Health Department, Romesh Chander from Shavshat Art Gallery, and Mukesh Singh, a senior media professional. The program aimed to rejuvenate the traditional folk art and culture of the J&K region. Special performances included thematic items like "Chuti Badi Karab," "Koi Ache Ram Koi Alha," "Nasha Nai Kario Munde Kureio," and "Savdhan Savdhan ae Bharat Vasi Savdhan," among others, all designed to raise awareness about the dangers of addiction.

In her address, the Chief Guest highlighted the risks associated with addiction, particularly among adolescents and young adults, and emphasized the severe withdrawal symptoms linked to various drugs. She praised the organizers for their colorful and

effective awareness programs.

Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman of BLSKS, welcomed attendees and discussed the challenges of drug withdrawal, underscoring the combination of physical and mental symptoms that make cessation difficult. He also facilitated a discussion on the importance of voting, emphasizing that informed citizens can better hold their government accountable and participate in democracy.

Usha Raina, Troupe In Charge of BLSKS, noted that outreach workers have been educating local communities about the ill effects of drug abuse and assisting in the rehabilitation of victims. The talented performers included K.K. Joshi, M.C. Kotwal, Chahat, Rajni Gupta, Naiya Digra, Renu Bala, and Richu Balvinder Kumar.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Deepak Kumar Dogra, Program Incharge, acknowledging everyone's contributions to the successful conclusion of the event. The performances were recorded and uploaded online for wider community access.

## MP Khatana criticizes AIUDF's Badruddin Ajmal Terms Waqf Amendment Bill is Modi Govt's landmark step for empowering Indian Muslims



Top News Report

RAIPUR, Oct 18: In response to AIUDF leader Badruddin Ajmal's recent allegations about Parliament and other government assets being built on Waqf properties, BJP Rajya Sabha MP and Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) member Er. Gulam Ali Khatana criticized Ajmal for misleading the Muslim community and diverting attention away from critical issues related to their empowerment.

Khatana who is on visit Study visit of the Committee Assurances in Raipur, Chhattisgarh on Friday, asserted that the Modi government's intention behind amending the Waqf Act is to ensure that the resources benefit marginalized and backward sections of Indian

Muslims.

Khatana criticized Ajmal for engaging in appeasement politics, claiming that Ajmal's political base had shifted to Congress, leading to his loss in the Lok Sabha elections. "The Waqf Amendment Act will ensure that poor Muslims benefit, not just a select few," Khatana said.

He further mentioned that opposition MPs, including some from the JPC, had previously boycotted committee proceedings following revelations of Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge's alleged involvement in the Karnataka Waqf land scam.

"I appeal to all JPC members to fulfill their responsibilities and support the cause of the marginalized, underprivileged, and backward Muslim communities. The Modi government is committed to their upliftment, and the Waqf Amendment Act will ensure that Waqf resources are properly utilized for the betterment of these groups," Khatana added.

## Cambridge International School excels at 14th District Jammu Rope Skipping Championship 2024



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 18: Cambridge International School has once again demonstrated its commitment to excellence by securing an impressive total of 16 medals at the 14th District Jammu Rope Skipping Championship 2024, held at KC International School, Jammu. The school's talented participants showcased

exceptional skill and dedication, winning 3 Gold, 8 Silver, and 5 Bronze medals.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the 12 students who represented the school with distinction, bringing honor and pride to the entire Cambridge community. Their remarkable achievements are a testament to their hard work and passion for the sport.

The school management praised both the students and their coach for their outstanding efforts and dedication, highlighting the importance of such events in fostering talent and encouraging a spirit of competition among young athletes. Cambridge International School continues to be a leader in promoting sports and physical education, nurturing future champions.

## Rahul Sahai represents J&K at International Engineering Trade Fair held in Brno, Czech Republic

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 18: Rahul Sahai, the Chairman of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) Jammu Chapter, recently represented Jammu & Kashmir at the prestigious International Engineering Trade Fair held in Brno, Czech Republic. During his visit, he had the honor of meeting Petr Fiala, the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic.

Their discussion focused on exploring potential avenues of collaboration between the two regions, particularly in the engineering and technology sectors, where both parties see significant opportunities for growth and development.



In addition to his meeting with Prime Minister Fiala, Sahai engaged with several high-ranking officials and business leaders, including Ing. Lukas Viecek, the Minister of Industry and Trade; Jan Michal, the CEO of Czech Invest; Michalis Busios, Project Director of BVV Trade Fairs Brno; David Muller, Director General of the Euro-

pean Union and Foreign Trade Section within the Ministry of Industry and Trade; Petr Jaros, who oversees the Department of Africa, Asia, and Australia; and Pavel Cap, Project Director at the Association of Engineering Technology.

During these high-level meetings, Sahai extended formal invitations for these dignitaries to

visit Jammu & Kashmir, emphasizing the region's potential as a hub for industrial growth.

He specifically highlighted opportunities in manufacturing, automotive parts, and packaging materials, pointing out that Jammu & Kashmir offers a robust Industrial Policy that provides numerous incentives for foreign investments.

Sahai urged the Czech delegation to consider sending representatives from their Industry Department to explore collaborative efforts and investment possibilities in Jammu & Kashmir.

He expressed appreciation for the initiatives taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who have been

instrumental in fostering an environment conducive to investments, particularly in the manufacturing sector in Jammu.

As a well-respected leader and advocate for industrial development, Rahul Sahai continues to champion the cause of Jammu & Kashmir on the global stage.

Under his leadership, the PHDCCI Jammu Chapter plays a pivotal role in representing the interests of local businesses and promoting trade, thereby facilitating economic growth in the region.

Sahai's efforts aim not only to attract investment but also to ensure that Jammu & Kashmir is recognized as a preferred destination for businesses worldwide.

## Spark of separatism, fundamentalism should not be tolerated: Shiv Sena

### Hilal should apologize to country: Sahni

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 18: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has called the act of NC MLA Hilal Akbar Lone not standing during the national anthem is anti-national act and has advocated strict action like apology and dismissal.

In a press conference held at the party state center office, state chief Manish Sahni has appealed to the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take strict cognizance of the act of MLA Hilal Akbar, who remained seated at his place during the national anthem, and dismiss him.

Sahni said that no spark of separatism and fun-



damentalism should be tolerated.

Sahni alleged that this is a deliberate act.

This MLA's father Mohammad Akbar Lone has also raised the slogan of Pakistan Zindabad in the Jammu Kashmir Assembly during his tenure.

It is worth mentioning that the swearing-in cer-

emony of Omar Abdullah was going on at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Center (SKICC) in Srinagar.

When the national anthem was played during the swearing-in ceremony, Hilal Akbar Lone, the National Conference MLA elected from Sonwari Hajin, remained seated at his place.

## PT Usha warns ministry, says sports bill will invite IOC sanction

Raises concerns over sports bill's impact on autonomy

NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): The Indian Olympic Association president PT Usha has cautioned the sports ministry that the proposed draft of the Sports Bill may invite sanctions from the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Sports minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya met with the representatives of the various National Sports Federations (NSFs) and IOA to discuss the draft with the stakeholders. Usha, who also attended the meeting, in her written submission has said that a few provisions, including the formation of a Sports Regulatory Body, that will grant recognition to NSFs may be construed by international federations (IFs) as an act to take away the autonomy of sports bodies.

"In its current form the pro-



posed Sports Regulatory Authority is granted extensive powers to control and regulate the functioning of these bodies, and it will be perceived as infringing upon the autonomy of IOA and NSFs. This may lead to a conflict between the government and international sports governance bodies, particularly the IOC, which has

previously suspended many National Olympic committees for excessive governmental interference," Usha wrote.

The proposed Sports Regulatory Authority, if seen as undermining the IOA's autonomy, will lead the IOC to question the alignment of India's sports governance with the Olympic Charter. A suspension would

have severe implications, not only limiting India's participation in the Olympic Games but also hindering its international reputation as a sporting nation," she added.

Further, she has also sought clarity on the role of State Olympic Associations, which according to her is a key link for grass root development of sports.

"The bill's silence on their role could undermine the decentralisation of sports governance and miss the opportunity to involve local bodies in nurturing regional talent. Given their influence in state-level sports events and local representation at the national level, the omission of any defined role for SOAs weakens the overall framework for the holistic development of sports in India," she said.

## SA hammer Australia to enter final



DUBAI, Oct 18 (Agencies): A resolute South Africa came up with a clinical performance to shock mighty Australia by eight wickets and enter the final of the Women's T20 World Cup.

South Africa thus exacted revenge for their loss in the last summit clash at home, when Australia won by 19 runs to lift their sixth trophy.

Put in to bat, Australia

were stopped at a modest 134/5 as Beth Mooney top-scored with a 42-ball 44 in the first semifinal. Ayabonga Khaka (2/24) was the most successful bowler for South Africa, even as others chipped in nicely. South Africa completed the task with 16 balls to spare and Anneke Bosch led the way with a scintillating knock of 74 not out off 48 balls. Skipper Laura Wolvaardt contributed

a 37-ball 42 at the top of the order.

"Heart is racing. It was quite tough out there but I'm really glad we could get over the line and that I could finally contribute with some runs," said Bosch, who was named the Player of the Match.

Captain Wolvaardt called it "one of the best wins" of her cricketering career. "It's right up there. I think this is one of the best wins of my cricketering career for sure. A couple of other girls have said it as well. I think that was such an amazing chase. Bowlers were excellent," she said.

Brief scores: Australia: 134/5 in 20 overs (Mooney 44, McGrath 27; Khaka 2/24); South Africa: 135/2 in 17.2 overs (Bosch 74\*, Wolvaardt 42; Sutherland 2/26).

## Australia and South Africa tours will be tough for Team India: Sourav Ganguly

NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): The Cricket Academy of Murshidabad District Sports Association was officially launched by former BCCI president Sourav Ganguly at Baharampur Stadium. Along with that, the bowling machine at the academy was also inaugurated. Sourav Ganguly, the ICC Men's Cricket Committee Chairman and former captain of the Indian cricket team, inaugurated the cricket academy by cutting the ribbon.

Members of the cricket academy as well as cricket lovers gathered to see Ganguly, who captained India to the 2003 ODI World Cup. Ganguly sounded optimistic for the Indian team ahead of their tour of South Africa and Australia after the Test series against New Zealand.

Ganguly said, "The team has newcomers as well as experienced



ones. Good teams will be made with seniors and juniors. So the best team has to be made. Australia and South Africa will be a good and tough tour."

On being asked about the junior players, those who are performing well for team India, Ganguly said, "India has good players. India just won against Bangladesh. So India is a great team."

In November, India are set to lock horns with the Proteas in four T20Is. Durban, Gqeberha, Centurion and Johannesburg will host the matches on November 8, 10, 13 and 15.

Thereafter, India will tour Australia for the all-important Border-Gavaskar Trophy, starting November 22 with the series opener at the Perth Stadium.

India will then take part in the Day-Night Test at the Adelaide Oval, followed by the Brisbane Test.

The Boxing Day Test starts on December 26 at the Melbourne Cricket Stadium. The fifth and final Test starts on January 3 at the Sydney Cricket Ground. India won the Test series both times when they toured Australia in 2018-19 and 2020-21.

## World cup final: 'Jaipur boys' Vivaan, Anant Jeet bring cheer to Indian contingent

NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): "We are the Jaipur boys!" — skeet shooter Anant Jeet Singh Naruka, fresh from his bronze medal winning feat, could not control his joy as he reacted minutes after his state-mate Vivaan Kapoor won silver in the men's trap competition.

Kapoor, 22, and Naruka, 26, go a long way back as both the families have been friends for a long time. The closeness showed when Naruka showed up unannounced at Kapoor's media interaction and raked up the Jaipur connection. "It is good to win a medal with my cousin," Kapoor said in a jovial response.

Kapoor could not have been happier as he won his first ISSF medal in the senior category. China's Qi Ying, who is the reigning Olympics silver medallist, won the gold medal after breaking 47 of the 50 targets in the final, while Kapoor finished second with a total of 44. Turkey's Tolga



Tuncer won the bronze medal with a total of 35 hits.

"I gave it my all but this medal is because of God's grace," Kapoor said after his first big medal. "I am happy and it is big as this is my first (ISSF medal) and I hope that I work harder on several others because this is a long journey," he added.

Kapoor credited his personal coach Khaled Al Mudaf for his rise in the field of trap shooting. "He is like my second father. He is somebody I have looked up to. I credit three people who have helped me in this field — my father's

friend Giriraj Singh, who made me start shooting, my father and of course my second father Khaled. He takes care of everything from my technique, my diet to my mental being, everything is controlled by Khaled," he said.

Kapoor, who missed out on the Indian team selection for the Paris Games, also informed that he has plans ready for the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

"I have an organised plan with my coach as we work towards the LA Olympics. I was three to four targets away from the Paris Olympics but my aim was always

to prepare for the LA Games. My preparations started the day of the Paris Olympics," he said.

Home pressure Earlier in the day, Naruka finished third in the skeet men's final with a score of 43. The gold was won by Italy's Tamarro Cassandro, who pipped Paris Olympics mixed team gold medallist Gabriele Rossetti 57 hits to 56.

Naruka touched on how shooting in an international tournament on home turf may have played a part in his missing seven targets in the final.

"This competition was

very good for me as I got third place. I had to fight from the start as everyone was shooting well. I knew I had to do well. At one point I knew I was in danger of getting eliminated and I concentrated on one target at a time and kept shooting," Naruka said.

"It was the pressure of performing at home. I could have shot much better. I have performed well in Delhi a number of times and I think a plus point for me was that I am very comfortable with the range. It was a good performance overall," he added.

In the day's first final, India's Ganemat Sekhon finished sixth in the women's skeet final. Ganemat, who qualified fourth with a score of 122 in qualification, scored 16 hits and was the first to be eliminated.

The gold medal was won by USA's Samantha Simonton, who edged Italy's Diana Bacosi 56 hits to 54. France's Lucie Anastassiou finished third with 42 hits.

## Pakistan snap winless home run, beat England by 152 runs in Multan

MULTAN, Oct 18 (Agencies): Spinner Sajid Khan and Noman Ali scripted an incredible comeback for Pakistan in the Test series against England. Reeling after their horrible loss in the first Test match, Pakistan roared back with a 152-run victory on Friday, October 18, with a completely new team.

Spinners Noman Ali and Sajid Khan, who were called back into the team after a huge selection committee drama picked all 20 wickets for Pakistan in the Test match. In fact, in the second innings of the match, captain Shan Masood did not hand any of his other bowlers a single over at all. Noman and Sajid bowled all 33.3 overs in the second innings and bowled out England for 144 runs.

The incredible tally of wickets, the first for any spin duo since 1956, overshadowed debutant Kamran Ghulam's incredible hundred in the first innings, which essentially set up the win for Pakistan.

England came out to bat on Day 4 needing 261 runs to win, with 8 wickets in hand. England's famed Bazball approach took them to an incredible victory in the 1st Test match in Multan, but it faltered at the same venue on Friday, October 18.



5 England batters got out for single-digits as England were bowled out in just 33.3 overs. Ben Stokes was the top-scorer for the visitors, hitting 37 off 36 balls, and got out trying to hit Noman Ali for a six in the 28th over. Stokes' wicket was the last nail in the coffin for England and they were bowled out soon after that.

Spinners Noman and Sajid had played their last games for Pakistan back in July 2023 and January 2024 respectively and were the stars of the show for Pakistan. Calling back those two spinners had created much divide in the Pakistan fanbase as it came at the cost of star fast-bowling duo Shaheen Afridi

and Naseem Shah.

However, the call paid dividends and so did Shan Masood's decision to bowl with only two bowlers in the final innings of the game.

Kamran Ghulam's Debut Earlier in the game, Pakistan were once again in trouble after losing early wickets in the first innings. There were worrying signs for Pakistan as the Test match was being played on essentially a Day 6 pitch in Multan. As panic set in once again, it was debutant Kamran Ghulam and youngster Saim Ayub who rescued Pakistan with a sensational partnership of 149 runs.

Kamran scored a patient cen-

tury at No. 4 replacing Babar Azam, who had not hit a fifty in his last 18 innings. Kamran needed nerves of steel to keep the chatter out and played a statement innings where he dominated the spin bowlers from England.

The innings helped Pakistan stay much ahead of the game against England, despite Ben Duckett's century in the first innings. Duckett had tried to dominate the spinners with his 114 off 129 but apart from him none of the England batters succeeded in doing so.

Right arm off-spinner Sajid Khan was handed the player of the match award ahead of Noman Ali and Kamran Ghulam. The player spoke highly of Noman calling him the most experienced bowler in Pakistan.

"We lost the last two series, we just backed our process. Thanks to the Multan crowd for all the support. Noman is one of the most experienced players, he shares his experience and he's played everywhere. First innings, I got out early and he scored. In the second innings, I batted below him and gave support to Salman," Sajid said at the end of the match.

## Cameron Green's absence will change Australia's bowling dynamics, says Mitchell Starc

SYDNEY, Oct 18 (Agencies): The absence of allrounder Cameron Green will change Australia's bowling dynamics for the upcoming five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy and may increase spinner Nathan Lyon's workload, according to star pacer Mitchell Starc.

Green will undergo surgery to address his back-related troubles which will keep him out of action for at least six months.

While Australia have another all-round option in Mitchell Marsh ready to share the workload, Starc admitted that Green's unavailability changes the equation.

"It will always change the dynamic when you take a genuine all-rounder like a Cameron Green, or with England when you take a Ben Stokes, out," Starc was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"When you have that genuine allrounder who has been part of a group for a while ...you get into a bit of a routine of

having that extra bowling option.

"I don't know what the dynamic of that line-up is going to be, there is a lot of talk around that opening spot and Mitch (Marsh) bowling as well," he said.

Starc said the issue isn't something which Australia have not dealt before.

"It's not completely foreign. We've had series in the past where we haven't had an allrounder at all," he said.

"We've had to take some of that workload, and Gaz (Nathan Lyon) has probably had to bowl a bit extra as well. That's been the mindset for a number of years now, with overseas tour or a home series and the mentality of how gruelling a summer or series can be."

Starc said the gap days between the five Tests against India will be crucial for the bowlers as Australia look to reclaim hold on the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for first time in a decade.

"It's been spoken

about, if you have four or five Tests that go four days, the extra day between games. There is obviously a big gap between the first and second Test and the third and fourth Test. That may play a part as well," he said.

"We don't know what wickets we'll get, we don't know how successful or unsuccessful we will be."

"There are too many factors to sit here at the start and say this is what is going to happen. But there are certainly times where you feel the grind of five Tests."

Starc backed young batter Sam Konstas to excel at the highest level after impressive returns in Sheffield Shield.

"There's no reason (for him) not to (handle it). He's obviously got the talent, got the work ethic, he's a lovely young man. Time will tell. If he's not picked this summer then I am sure runs on the board will help him in the long run," he said.

## JKEJCC congratulates Omar Abdullah on being sworn in as J&K CM

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 18: Jammu and Kashmir Employees Joint Consultative Committee (JKEJCC) held a meeting at the Central Office Srinagar. In the meeting Aijaz Ahmed Khan Chairman of the Association congratulate Omar Abdullah on his coalition's success in the recent Assembly Polls and sworn in as the Chief Minister of Jammu Kashmir.

In a statement Aijaz Ahmed Khan Chairman of the Association expressed optimism that the new government will address longstanding issues faced by employees across the region and will fulfill the aspirations, needs and concern of the employees of the union territory, promote peace, and drive socio-economic development across the Union Territory.

He said, "We look forward to his leadership in



tackling key issues such as youth empowerment, education, unemployment, and development. I am optimistic that Omar Abdullah will continue to prioritize the needs and aspirations of the employees of Jammu and Kashmir."

Khalid Mehmood Khan Chief Spokesperson of the Association wished the Chief Minister great success and expressed its eagerness to work closely with the administration, particularly in addressing employees related issues both within the region and beyond. He expressed hope for

restoration of long pending issues of employees such as DPCs of various departments which are pending more than decade, Pay Anomaly of various departments, reinstating of Old Pension Scheme, transfer policy for Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees as well as amendment in inter district recruitment policy and inclusion of transfer clause in it as thousands of Kashmir based class-iv and non gazetted employees working in Jammu division and thousands of Jammu based employees working in Kashmir divi-

sion recruited under inter district recruitment, regularization of daily wagers. He also expressed confidence in Abdullah's ability to navigate the unique challenges facing the sector.

Javed Ahmed General Secretary of the Association congratulate and welcomed the recent actions taken by Jenab Omar Abdullah.

In a press statement issued, Khan Chairman JKEJCC assured the new government of its full support and cooperation and pledged to assist in addressing the issues faced by the

employees community. He also emphasized the hope that the new administration would prioritize resolving the longstanding grievances of employees in Jammu and Kashmir.

Members of the association who present in the meeting were Shabir Ahmad Langoo, Maqbool Hussain, Javed Ahmad Akhoun, Rehmatullah Khan, Haji Abdul Qayoom Beig, Muneer Ahmad Falgaroo, Nisar Ahmad Peer, Farooq Ahmad Kawa, Saleem Sagar, Mahmood Yaqoob Dar, Sabiya Bashir, Masood Ahmad Nazki, Gh Mustafa Khan, Peerzada Mohd Sadiq, Mohd Shafi Rather, Hilal Ahmad Mohd Iqbal Kant, Syed Parvaiz Raja, Riyaz Ahmad Sofi, Shafi Shabir, Shah Nabaz Ahmad Ahangar Abid Kotwal, Younus matoo, Anayat Nowsheeri, Feroz Ahmad nazar, Mukhtar Ahmad, Abdul Gani.

## HSS congratulates Omar Abdullah, his cabinet

Urges to take steps to bridge gap between administration and common man

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 18: State President of Hindustan Shiv Sena Vikrant Kapoor has congratulated Omar Abdullah and his cabinet on becoming the first Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir UT. He said that with Surinder Chaudhary being appointed Deputy Chief Minister and Javed Rana and Satish Sharma from Jammu division being appointed ministers, a wave of happiness has run among the people of Jammu and they have hope that their long pending problems will now be resolved. Along with this, he expressed hope that the new government will take every possible step to bridge the gap between the common man and the administration.

State President of Hindustan Shiv Sena Vikrant Kapoor said this while addressing a press conference in Jammu here today. Along with this, he also congratulated the 29 elected MLAs of BJP on



behalf of Hindustan Shiv Sena and hoped that they will make every possible effort to solve the problems of the people.

Vikrant Kapoor hoped that now there is an elected government in the State which will give priority to solving the issues of the people. He said that earlier it was not so because senior bureaucrats were not aware of the ground reality and they had no knowledge of the problems of the people and neither did the common man get any hearing. He said that now with the formation of an elected government, people will be able to take their problems to their elected representatives who have complete

information about the ground reality and issues related with the people and they will raise their issues before the administration and make every possible effort to get them resolved.

He said that due to bureaucracy, the gap between the common people and the administration had increased so much that there was no hearing of the common people. To bridge this gap, people's darbar should be held and their problems should be heard and solved. Whereas due to bureaucracy, the common people did not have access to them. To provide relief to the common people, steps should be taken to facilitate their access to the Civil Secretariat as well.

Hindustan Shiv Sena senior leaders Baba Ram Kaith, Abhishek, Himanshu, Amit, women wing leader Jyoti Devi and others were also present during the press conference.

## Trikuta Nagar Traders Association felicitates Yudhvir Sethi



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 18: The Trikota Nagar Traders Association, Jammu felicitated Yudhvir Sethi, MLA of Jammu East, in recognition of his dedication and service to the community.

The event was presided over by Abhinav Anand, President of the association and a BJP leader, with Ankit Gupta, Executive Member, also present. The association expressed its gratitude to Yudhvir Sethi for his efforts in addressing local issues and promot-

ing development in the Jammu East constituency.

Abhinav Anand highlighted Sethi's commitment to improving the livelihoods of traders and strengthening infrastructure in the region.

Ankit Gupta echoed similar sentiments, appreciating the MLA's role in ensuring the welfare of the business community. The ceremony underscored the close relationship between local leadership and traders, aiming to foster continued collaboration for the growth and prosperity of Jammu East.

## Aligarh Muslim University Alumni Association Doda celebrates Sir Syed Day 2024

Top News Report

DODA, Oct 18: Continuing with its tradition of academic and social spirit the AMU Alumni Association Doda Chapter celebrated Sir Syed Day 2024 with full zeal and fervour.

The day marks the birth anniversary of Sir Syed

unique cultural and academic spirit of this university.

The event started with the welcome address by Dr Jamsheed Ahmad which was followed by the speeches by the senior Aligarians. Tanveer Wani, Adv. Farooq Khan, Nasir Suhawardy, Adv. Syed Asim Hashmi and Zia ul

Saleem Adil, Mr Faheem Zargar, Ahtsham Aziz, Mubashir Mughal and Dr Basit Suhawardy.

The speakers stressed upon the role of the AMU alumni in working for the downtrodden sections of the society. Further stress was laid on the education sector and planning was done to establish an office



Ahmad Khan, a philosopher and educationist who established the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College which is today known as the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

This day is celebrated by the ex students of this university throughout the world and represents the

Haq shared the experiences of their university days and urged the new generation to carry on the mission started by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. They further lauded the efforts of the young Aligarians who managed and organised the event.

Others who spoke on the occasion are Dr Javed Iqbal Trambao,

at Doda headquarters.

Towards the end of the programme, Sir Syed Dinner, a cherished tradition of this day, was organised.

The day ended with the traditional AMU tarana. Dr Irfan Serwal, Dr Mohd Safi, Prof Majid Gani, and Shah Nawaz Ahmed managed and organised the whole event.

## Dimple applauds resolution for Statehood Restoration

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 18: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu & Kashmir, has expressed his gratitude to Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for their decisive action in the first cabinet meeting, where a resolution was passed to restore Jammu & Kashmir's statehood.

Dimple emphasized the significance of this step for the 13 million youth of Jammu & Kashmir who have faced hardships since the abrogation of Article 370.

In his message, Dimple urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to reinstate the Darbar Move this year, stressing its importance for trade, transporters, and communal harmony between



Jammu and Kashmir.

Dimple called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to prioritize the restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's statehood, referencing the Supreme Court's direction to the central government regarding the petitions scheduled for a verdict on December 13, 2024.

He highlighted the need to implement the Instrument of Accession conditions signed by Maharaja Hari Singh before the upcoming accession

day on October 26.

He reiterated that the struggle for Article 370 and related rights will persist and asserted that the current Omar Abdullah government is a stable, popularly elected body deserving of empowered decision-making.

Additionally, Dimple urged the government to initiate the State Subject PRC, address rising unemployment and poverty, and emphasized the necessity for unification of Ladakh, POK, and Gilgit-Baltistan as part of Jammu & Kashmir.

Dimple warned of widespread agitation if the immediate restoration of the Darbar Move is not addressed, reiterating his commitment to fight for the return of Article 370 and the unification of the region until his last breath.

## Swami Vinay Muni holds Satsang in R S Pura



Top News Report

R S PURA, Oct 18: A Satsang was held in Radha Krishna Temple at R.S.Pura in sweet memory of Mahant Rajesh Bittu's respected mother, wherein a large number of saints and devotees from different corners participated.

In his address, Swami Vinay Muni said the most important person in our life is our mother. She is our greatest blessing and inspiration. She works tirelessly to provide for

our family and teaches us the importance of hard work and determination. Her kindness and patience are boundless, and she knows how to comfort us when we feel down.

What makes our mother truly special is her ability to instill good values in us. She encourages us to be kind, honest, and respectful towards others, setting an excellent example for us to follow. We look up to her for her wisdom and guidance, Swami added.

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