

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**Ex-general Prabowo Subianto takes office as Indonesia President**



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## BRIEFLY

### 70-year-old man mauled to death by stray dog in Budgam

SRINAGAR, Oct 20 (Agencies): A 70-year-old man was mauled to death by a stray dog even as it injured four others in Manchowa area of J-K's Budgam, reports said Sunday. Quoting officials news agency GNS reported that a dog attacked the people at around 6 am as they were heading towards their field. Five persons were injured and one of them identified as Khazir Mohammad Magrey, 70, succumbed to his injuries. Four other persons are admitted in the local hospital, they added. Locals demand immediate action against stray dogs menace in the area and said that today's incident should serve as eye opener for authorities to act. "There should be an immediate end to such menace," the Locals added.

### Two killed as vehicle falls in gorge in Doda

JAMMU, Oct 20 (Agencies): Two persons were killed and three others critically injured when a load carrier skidded off the road and rolled down into a deep gorge in the Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, police officials said on Sunday. The accident took place near the Battara village in hilly Gandoh area around midnight on Saturday, the officials said. They said five persons were critically injured in the accident and sent to hospital, where Shakeel Ahmed (20) and Mohammad Sayam (18) succumbed to injuries.

### Army foils infiltration bid along LoC in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Oct 20 (Agencies): Army on Saturday foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. Alert soldiers noticed suspicious movement near the LoC in the Kamalkote area of the Uri sector and challenged the intruders, they said. The intruders opened firing which was retaliated by the Army jawans, officials said, adding one infiltrator was believed to have been killed. The body of the slain ultra has not been

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## Record Tourists' arrival stands as a testimony to peace, progress and prosperity in J&K: LG Sinha



SRINAGAR, Oct 20 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today felicitated the winners of Kashmir

Marathon, a first-ever International Marathon in Jammu Kashmir. More than 1700 runners from across the

country and 12 foreign nations participated in 42 km Full Marathon and 21 km Half Marathon. In his address, the

Lt Governor congratulated all the winners and participants. He lauded the efforts of Tourism Department, J&K Police, Security Forces, Youth Services & Sports Department and all the stakeholders for the massive success of Kashmir Marathon. "This successful mega event has put J&K on the world marathon map," he said. Terming the occasion as another historic moment for J&K, the Lt Governor expressed gratitude to Prime

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## CM Omar Abdullah, Actor Suniel Shetty flags off Kashmir's first International Marathon



SRINAGAR, Oct 20 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and

Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty flag off Kashmir's first-ever International Marathon from Polo

Ground Stadium Srinagar on Sunday. Chief Minister Omar also participated in the

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## Pakistan's ISI, terror groups attempt to exploit online platforms for recruitment efforts in J&K



SRINAGAR, Oct 20 (Agencies): In a concerning shift in tactics, Pakistan's intelligence agency and terror groups are trying to ramp up recruitment efforts in Jammu and Kashmir through digital platforms, as direct interactions become increasingly difficult due to heightened security measures, officials said on Sunday. These groups are now

primarily using social media platforms and messaging apps such as X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Telegram to target vulnerable youth, according to an official. They are using fake profiles and Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) to evade detection. Once identified, these individuals are drawn into private groups

where they are exposed to manipulative content, including fabricated videos depicting atrocities allegedly committed by security forces, the officials said. This strategy is employed by handlers linked to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to incite hatred and foster a narrative conducive to recruitment. In a troubling development, the officials said, the potential recruits are now being introduced to literature by Sayyid Qutb, an Egyptian extremist whose ideologies have significantly influenced radical Islamist organisations including Al-Qaeda. Qutb, who was

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## Senior Police Officer Reviews Operational Preparedness of Force in Poonch

JAMMU, Oct 20 (Agencies): Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu, Anand Jain visited the border district of Poonch on Saturday to review the operational preparedness of the force and discuss various policing and security-related issues, a police spokesperson said. As part of the visit, a series of meetings and interactions were held with senior officers, station house officers and personnel of the Special Operations Group (SOG), the spokesperson added. At a comprehensive review meeting held at the District Police Lines, Poonch, the ADGP

emphasised the importance of maintaining high levels of vigilance and ensuring proactive measures in dealing with any emerging law-and-order situation. He instructed the officers to work in close coordination with intelligence agencies and adopt a people-friendly approach while carry-

ing out their duties, the police spokesperson said. Jain also stressed the importance of professional integrity, community policing and the need to address the grievances of the public in a time-bound manner. He requested the officers to strengthen the

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## High Court slams Illegal High Court Bar Association Srinagar's PIL, Cites 'No Legal Legs to Stand On'

SRINAGAR, Oct 20 (Agencies): The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, has dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed in the name of the unregistered Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Srinagar. The petition, submitted by Advocate Arshad Andrabi, an executive member of the illegal association, was rejected on grounds of locus standi and procedural non-compliance. It is important to note that the District Administration Srinagar had previously debarred the election of this illegal association, which had been led by controversial people such as Adv Mian Abdul Qayoom, now jailed in connection with the murder of Advocate Babar Jan Qadri, Advocate Nazir Ahmad Ronga, currently detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA),



and Advocate Ghulam Nabi Shaheen, were also associated with the now-defunct body. The Division Bench, comprising Hon'ble Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice M.A. Chowdhary, heard the petition, initially filed as OWP No. 2250/2018. The case was later treated as a PIL in a particular case. However, the respondents, represented by Advocate General Mr. D.C. Raina raised preliminary objections regarding the association's legal standing and

failure to follow proper procedures for filing a PIL. The respondents pointed out that the petitioner association was not registered under the Jammu and Kashmir Societies' Registration Act, 1997, and lacked legal sanctity. The association did not submit any certificate of registration, making the petition non-maintainable under Rule 24(4)(VII) of the Writ Proceedings Rules, 1997. This rule requires petitioners to either send a prior

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**MOURNING/TENTH DAY KRIYA**

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

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

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

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

**Daughters and Son in law :**

Isha Dasi W/o Rohit Koul  
Manvika Dasi W/o Rohit Malb

Grand kids: Lehar, Vishruth and Vanya

Contact Number: 7719926686, 7738060099  
9953462217, 9873492217



Mrs Indu Dasi

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the untimely sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Rattan Lal Saproo (Tota Saproo)** S/o Late Smt. Dulari Saproo (Sarf) and Late Sh. Prem Nath Saproo of Nai- Basti Anantnag, A/p Ward No. 62, H.No. 1024, Dr.Choudhary Lane, Near Kailesh Ashram, Roorp Nagar, Jammu on 16-10-2024.

10th Day Kriya will be held on 25-10-24, Friday at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 8:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN & FONDLY REMEMBERED BY**

Smt. Pummy Saproo - Wife (6006500179)  
Ambica Saproo - Daughter (7889894746)  
Aryan Saproo - Son  
Sister & Brother-in-law  
Smt. Meena Koul & Sh. Sudhir Koul - 6006272889 (Whatsapp call)

Smt. Veena Saproo & Manu Jee Saproo - Sister-in-law & Brother (8899242507)

Aushie Koul & Sunil Mabeo  
Ankush Koul & Vashnevi Koul  
Akash Saproo (8448130112)  
Manisha Saproo

Sarvest 'Saproo' Parivar of Pehoo  
Sarvest 'Bhat' Parivar of Panjan-Vessu



Sh. Rattan Lal Saproo (Tota Saproo)

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

This is to inform that the 10TH DAY KRIYA of our beloved **Smt. Shama Tufchi (Tathi Ji)** W/o Late Sh. Pran Nath Tufchi, originally from 130, Drabiyar, Habba Kadal, Srinagar shall be performed at Murad Nagar Canal at 8:00 AM on 23rd Oct 2024.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Phoola & Ashok Kumar Tufchi-9868250604  
Ranjna & Anil Kumar Tufchi-981113202  
Meenakshi & Lalit Kumar Tufchi-9860008685  
Reema & Rajesh Bamzai  
Henu & Pankaj Kaul  
Amrit, Nidhi, Elasha, Rukmani, Amrita, Saina & Anyamnn.

Residence: 8201, ATS Dolce, Sector Zeta-1, Greater Noida. U.P.



Smt. Shama Tufchi (Tathi Ji)

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SUDHIR KOUL S/O SH AMAR NATH KOUL, (MIYAN MOHALLA, KOCHA NIDHAN, RAINAWARI)** PRESENT RESIDENCE AT HOUSE NO 403, LAXMI VIHAR, TALAB TILLO, BOHRI, JAMMU.

10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT 9 AM, MUTHI GHAT, ON FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2024.

**GRIEF STRICKEN - FATHER AND MOTHER**

SH AMARNATH KOUL AND SMT.NANCY KOUL  
SHAKTI KOUL (SHRADHA) - WIFE  
SAMAST PARIWAR OF KOUL 'S, RAINA 'S, PANDITA'S

CONTACT NO - 977618255, 6005765200, 8130214040, 9871393166, 9718317626



SUDHIR KOUL

**TENTH DAY / KRIYA**

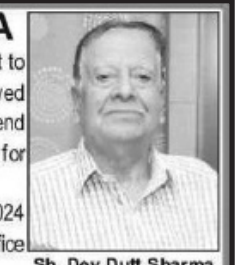
With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Dev Dutt Sharma** R/o 247, Friend sector, Subash Nagar, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 11-10-2024 (Friday).

Tenth Day will be performed on 20-10-2024 (SUNDAY), 8 am at Temple Opp. AG Office Shakti Nagar.

Kriya will be held on 21-10-2024 (MONDAY), 12:30 P.M at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Binia Devi - Wife  
Smt. Anadhana Sharma W/o Lt. Sh. Subhash Chander Sharma - Daughter-in-law  
Smt. Verthana & Sh. Ashwini Dubey - Daughter & Son in law  
Mrs. Surbi & Mr. Chetan Sharma - Granddaughter in law & Grandson  
Mr. Ketan Sharma - Grandson



Sh. Dev Dutt Sharma

**SATSANG**

In loving memory of **Lt. Dr. Joginder Singh** S/o Lt. Dr. Makhn Singh of Chidibugh Trail at Present Indra Nagar Srinagar who left us for heavenly abode on 5th July 2024.

To seek eternal Peace of departed soul and to pay obeisance, SATSANG will be held at Gurudwara Guru Ka Bagh Channi Himmat Jammu on Tuesday 22nd October 2024 from 3pm to 5pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

Sdn. Kulwant Kour (Wife) AND FAMILY  
H NO 3 SECTOR 5, CHANNI HIMMAT, JAMMU.  
TEL: 7889668571



Lt. Dr. Joginder Singh

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THAT OUR BELOVED MOTHER **KARAMYOGI SMT. KAMLAWATI PANDITA** W/O LATE DINA NATH PANDITA ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF HARIDU CHINAM DISTT BARAMULLA A/P LANE 24 BLOCK 156 FLAT 16 JAGTI LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 16 OCT 2024 WEDNESDAY

10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 25 OCT 2024 FRIDAY AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTORATE SCHOOL EDUCATION JAMMU AT 8:30 AM

**GRIEF STRICKEN-**

SONS AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW  
SH. MAHARAJ KRISHEN PANDITA AND USHAJI  
SH. AWATAR KRISHEN PANDITA AND KIRANJI  
SH. SATASH KUMAR PANDITA AND SUNITAJI  
DAUGHTERS AND SON-IN-LAW  
LT. SOHAN LAL BHAT AND LT. PARANAJI  
BITA DEVI WIFE OF LT. SATISH RAJNA

MOBILE NO 979293720, 9659643933, 9149830218



KARAMYOGI SMT. KAMLAWATI PANDITA

**10TH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Sham Lal Soni** S/o Late Sh. Amar Nath Soni. 10th Day will be performed at 11am on Saturday 19.10.24.

Kriya will be performed at 12 noon on Tuesday, 22-10-24.

UTHALA will be performed at 2 pm on Wednesday, 23.10.24.

Venue- at our residence Bhaddu (Bilawar)

Deeply Loved and missed by  
Son & Daughter in law  
Sh. Mohinder Kumar Soni & Anushe Soni  
Daughters and Son in law  
Smt. Saroj Nayyar W/o Late Sh. Kuldeep Raj Nayyar  
Smt. Swarna Lata Soni  
W/o Late Sh. Subash Chander Abrol.

Grand Children  
Mr. Daleep Soni & Ms. Jyoti  
Ms. Arpana & Mr. Vikas Suri  
Ms. Ujjwala & Mr. Sandeep Sharma  
Ms. Suvichha & Mr. Aditya Kohli  
(Great Grand Children)  
Ishrat, Darsh, Kritarth, Vasudh, Shwanya, Shreeja

Contact - 9419132524, 9419109279, 9149406033, 6005025841



SH SHAM LAL SONI JI (25-12-1927-10-10-2024)

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Padma Devi** W/o Late Sh. Boddh Raj Gupta R/o W.No. 15, H.No. 142, Venus Chowk Near J&K Bank Shakti Nagar, Udhampur.

Tenth Day will be performed on 21-10-2024 at 11:00 am at our residence.

Kriya shall be performed on 24-10-2024 at Devika Ghat, Udhampur.

Rasam Pagni shall be performed on 25-10-2024 at our residence.

Grief Stricken  
Son & Daughter-in-law  
Madan Lal Gupta & Vimmi Gupta  
Nareesh Gupta & Seema Gupta  
Suresh Gupta & Neeru Gupta

Son-in-law & Daughter  
Nareesh Kumar Gupta & Veena Rani Gupta  
Vinod Kumar Gupta - Son-in-law  
Rajinder Kumar Kadyar & Smt. Tripta Gupta  
Grand Children: Kanav, Sachin, Pranav, Sonali, Sahil, Hardik, Sakshi, Irene, Vibha, Glory  
Contact No. - 9419297675, 7011304386, 9796865418



Smt. Padma Devi

**10TH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief we regret to inform you that our revered & beloved mother **Karamyogni Smt Sheela Rani Zutshi** (W/o Lt. Sh. Saligram Zutshi) originally resident of Nai Sarak Srinagar, Kashmir at present at Plot No. 30, Sector 7, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu left for her heavenly abode on 13th Oct. 2024.

We are grateful for her love and spiritual inspiration given to us and others.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on Tuesday 22nd Oct. 2024 at 9 am at Muthi Ghat, Jammu (near Directorate of School Education).

**Grief Stricken**

Son & Daughter-in-law  
Sh. Sanjay Kumar Zutshi & Smt. Suneeta Pandita

Daughters & Sons-in-law  
Smt. Anjana Zutshi & Sh. Roop Krishen Razdan  
Smt. Manju Zutshi & Sh. Suneel Raina

All family members: Zutshi's, Kak's, Pandita's & Grand Children

Contact: 9796691661, 9419181702, 9910076731



Karamyogni Smt Sheela Rani Zutshi

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the Tenth day of our beloved **Sh. Rohit Gupta** S/o Late Sh. Vijay Kumar Gupta R/o House No. 290, Julaka Mohalla, Jammu which will be held on 21-10-2024 on Monday from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM at Mahajan Hall Shalamar Road, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Wife - Madhavi Gupta  
Brother & Sister-in-law  
Sohit Gupta & Vandana Gupta  
Deepak Gupta & Preeti Gupta  
Sister & Brother-in-law  
Anupama & Anil Gupta  
Daughters- Mannat Gupta & Yukti Gupta  
Mob: 9419128336, 9149780766



SH. ROHIT GUPTA

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

10TH DAY KRIYA of **Phoola Tikoo (Razdan)** W/o Raj Bhushan Razdan will be held on 21st October.

Venue : Shri Gauri Shankar Mandir, New Palam Vihar, Block T, Sector 109, Gurugram, Haryana.

After the KRIYA, Prayer meeting will be held at 11 a.m. at Community Center, Aastha Apartments Plot No 19 - B, Sector 6, Dwarka New Delhi 75

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Raj Bhushan Razdan (9910435661)  
Rakesh Razdan (9818194009)



Phoola Tikoo (Razdan)

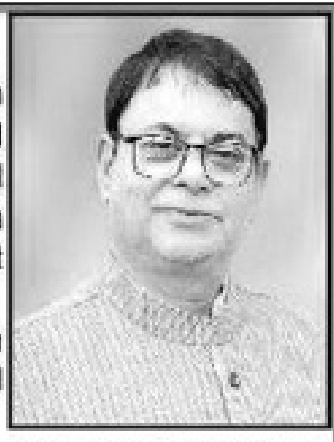
**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Kulbushan Kaul (Baisahab)** S/o Late Shamsunder Kaul original resident of Village Delina Baramulla Kashmir. Present Residence at TDI Kundli Sonapat.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on Sunday 27th October at Rohini Canal Sector 18 Delhi 89.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Kaul Family / Pandita Family/ Rainas & Peahens  
Contact nos 9811318403, 9391674248



KULBUSHAN KAUL (BAISAHAB)

**BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS**

(You lived it king size and will always be remembered as king)  
You left us beautiful memories,  
Your love is still our guide,  
And although we cannot see you,  
You are always at our side.  
Our family chain is broken,  
And nothing seems the same,  
But as God calls us one by one,  
The chain will link again.

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad, unfortunate and untimely demise of our beloved **S. Devinder Singh Bali** S/o Lt. S. Isher Singh Bali R/o Rehari Chungi who left for heavenly journey on 13-10-2024.

PROGRAMME:  
Aarambh Smt Akhand Path Sahib at our residence Rehari Chungi on 19-10-2024 (Saturday) Timing: 9:30 am.  
Bhog Akhand Path Sahib at our residence on 21-10-2024 (Monday) Timing: 9:30 am.  
Kirtan And Antim Ardas at Gurudwara Kalgitar Sahib, Rehari Chungi on 21-10-2024 (Monday) Timing: 11:00 am -12:30 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sdr. Tejinder Kour - Wife  
S. Hardeep Singh Bali - Son  
Hneet Kaur & S. Inderjeet Singh - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Deepi Bali - Daughter  
Mandeep Kour & S. Bhupinder Singh (DSP) - Daughter & Son-in-law  
S. Karan Singh Bali & Sdr. Rajinder Kour - Brother & Sister-in-law  
S. Gurcharan Singh Bali & Sdr. Devinder Kour - Brother & Sister-in-law  
Sdr. Ranjeet Kour - Sister  
Grand Children: Rajveer Singh, Manveer Singh, Gurveer Singh, Jasmeah Kaur

Mobile No. 9419183037



S. Devinder Singh Bali (Kuku)

**TENTH DAY/ KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF **SH. BHUPINDER GUPTA (BITTU)** S/O SH. BRIJ MOHAN GUPTA R/O BILLAWAR WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 11-10-2024.

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 20-10-2024 SUNDAY AT OUR RESIDENCE.

KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 23-10-2024 WEDNESDAY AT OUR RESIDENCE

**GRIEF STRICKEN :-**

FATHER & MOTHER  
SH. BRIJ MOHAN GUPTA AND SMT. RAM PYARI  
SMT. TRIPTA GUPTA (WIFE)

BROTHER & SISTER IN LAW  
SH. DANESH GUPTA & SMT SUPRIYA GUPTA  
SH. NAVNEET GUPTA & SMT. RUCHI MAHAJAN  
SH. SANJEEV GUPTA & SMT. POONAM GUPTA.

SISTER & BROTHER IN LAW  
SMT. SAMRITI & SH. BHUPINDER GUPTA

SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW  
SH. ABHISHEK & DR. TANYA GUPTA

DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW  
DR. SHIVANI & DR. ANKUSH

PHONE NO. - 9419324554, 9419156345, 7006504144



SH. BHUPINDER GUPTA (BITTU)

**10TH DAY/KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THAT OUR BELOVED **SH SANJAY KHAJURIA** S/O LATE SH SATYA PAUL KHAJURIA RESIDENT OF SECTOR 1 SANJAY NAGAR LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 11TH OCT 2024.

10TH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON SUNDAY 20 OCT 2024 AT OUR RESIDENCE AT 11AM.

THE RASAM KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON MONDAY 21.10.2024 AT 12 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN  
SMT. PUSHPA DEVI - MOTHER  
SUNITA SHARMA - WIFE  
SURBHI SHARMA - DAUGHTER  
ANSH KHAJURIA - SON

BROTHER AND BHABI  
AJAY KHAJURIA AND REKHA  
RAKESH KHAJURIA AND ARTI

UNCLE AND AUNTS  
MAHESH CHANDER KHAJURIA AND KRISHNA  
LT. SH. KHEM RAJ KHAJURIA AND RANI  
ASHOK KHAJURIA AND KANCHAN

BROTHERS  
SUNIL KHAJURIA  
SANDEEP KHAJURIA  
RAM KHAJURIA  
SHAM KHAJURIA  
ABHISHEK KHAJURIA

9469500003, 7006335599



Sh Sanjay Khajuria

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

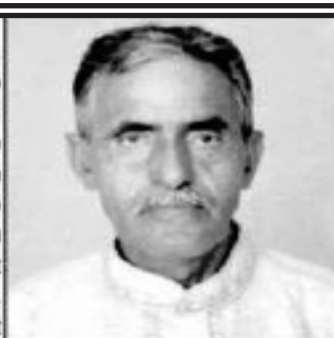
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our Karam Yogi Father **Sh. Prem Nath Bhat** S/o Shumbho Nath originally resident of Village Gugloosa Tehsil Trehgam, Kupwara At present TRT No 17, Block-G, Purkhoo Camp Domana Jammu who left us for heavenly abode on 13th Oct 2024.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

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

Assembly will be held at Community Hall Purkhoo Camp.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

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



SH. PREM NATH BHAT

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# JKEEGA calls upon Omar Abdullah and apprises HR issues of Employees of PDD

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 20: JKEEGA delegation led by Sachin Tickoo, General Secretary Jammu & Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA) called upon Jenab Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister J&K here at Jammu. The delegation while greeting the Chief Minister on his assumption of charge and especially holding the charge of important portfolio of Power further assumes significance given the expectations of various stakeholders in the department.

JKEEGA on this occasion took the liberty of putting up a detailed memorandum before the Honble Chief Minister and sought his kind consideration. It said the Current sitting Managing Director (JKPTCL) Chief Engineers/Superintending Engineers are all Assistant Engineers and most of the sitting Executive Engineers are Junior Engineers in substantive capacity and are only officiating the higher assignments in -charge capacity with no emoluments



of the higher positions. Despite the State Administrative Council decision Dated: 22/10/2019 and constitution of Empowered committee vide Government Order No. 308-JK(GAD) of 2020, Dated: 02.03.2020, the regularization issue has not been resolved.

Further The members of the J&K Engineering Gazetted services had been time and again representing for Time Bound career progression scheme (ACP) as available to Doctors/VAS and other technical services including Subordinate judiciary as well. The matter had been considered in the Finance Department and accordingly, the proposal

of Time bound promotion scheme for members of the J&K Engineering (Gazetted) Services was approved by then State Cabinet vide Cabinet Decision no- 109/6/2018 Dated-11/05/2018. However the formal notification didn't see light of the day only in respect of the Engineering services. However for Gazetted Police and JKAS services, notification had been issued, causing grave injustice to the engineers.

It further added that the department has through corporations sent an indent to SSRB for recruiting 300 Junior Engineers into corporations, the same needs to be expedited as there

has been no recruitment of Junior Engineers since last six years in Power Development Department. JKEEGA also seeks the filling up of the vacant positions across the hierarchy with the following positions vacant: -MD-1, ED-3, CE-2, 6, SE-22, XEN-70, AEE-111, JE- 300. JKEEGA strongly sought the Revocation of the Suspension of the Engineers suspended on account of poor billing efficiency and AT&C losses. Vide Govt order no-50/51/52/53/54/55/56 of PDD of 2024 Dated-19/03/2024, Govt order no- 57/58/59/60/61 of PDD of 2024 Dated-19/03/2024, who are languishing in suspension

for nearly eight months now without hearing.

JKEEGA also expressed serious reservations about the implementation of the Tariff Based Competitive Bidding Mode (TBCB) for Transmission/Sub Transmission infrastructure vide SAC decision 11/01/2024 Dated 18/01/2024 which shall lead to handing over of the Transmission assets to Private players for minimum lease period of 35 years and it shall drain the state exchequer for years to come as Tariff shall be offloaded on end consumer and our assets and source of employment for youth in Govt sector shall also diminish drastically. JKEEGA also informed him that regularization of daily rated workers in PDD needs to expedited as rules are already in place for such exercise.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah gave a patient hearing and heard thoroughly all the detailed points of the memorandum and assured speedy resolution of the issues brought to fore by JKEEGA.

# Centre's FRA Implementation Lags in J&K; MP Khatana Warns Officers of Consequences

Top News Report



JAMMU, Oct 20: Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP, Er Ghulam Ali Khatana, has criticized Jammu and Kashmir's bureaucratic inertia, accusing local officials of delaying the implementation of crucial Centre-sponsored schemes, especially the Forest Rights Act (FRA).

Khatana expressed anger over the lack of progress during a recent meeting, highlighting how bureaucratic hurdles are preventing the effective rollout of development initiatives. One of Khatana's key concerns is the denial of FRA benefits to marginalized communities such as the Gujjar, Bakkerwal, Pharai, Gadda Brahman, Padari, Chopal, and Gaddi Cippy, all of whom were granted Scheduled Tribes status under the Modi government.

He stressed that these communities are being unfairly deprived of the rights they deserve, calling the situation unacceptable. Khatana also criticized local authorities

expressed his desire to build martyr walls in community centres to honor those who sacrificed their lives for the nation, but claimed local officers have shown little interest in advancing these projects. He criticized the National Conference, Congress, and PDP for lacking respect for martyrs, while praising the Modi government for its efforts to honor the fallen.

Khatana issued a stern warning to local bureaucrats, reminding them that schemes initiated by Prime Minister Modi should not be obstructed, emphasizing that non-utilization of funds could lead to action against them. He also expressed concern about marginalized communities, particularly the Gujjars, Bakkerwals, and others, who are being deprived of FRA benefits.

Khatana has demanded a comprehensive report on the status of Centre-sponsored schemes from the Chief Secretary, underscoring the urgent need for accountability.

# Will ensure significant development of Devsar constituency: MLA Devsar

Top News Report

DEVSAR, Oct 20: Peerzada Feroze Ahmad Shah who was recently elected from the Devsar assembly seat of Kulgam



district visited main town Devsar where he was given a rousing welcome by party workers on Sunday.

Talking to reporters on the side-line of the func-

tion, Shah said, he would ensure the development of infrastructure in the Devsar constituency and initiatives for the well-being of its residents.

"Our first priority will be to ensure significant development in education and health sector in the constituency, and to provide employment opportunities to educated youths", he said.

He also said that people of Devsar and Frisal wants to remove municipality of Devsar and Frisal, and he would make every effort to fulfill their demands.

"People have high expectations and have placed trust in us, and we have to serve them. I will leave no stone unturned to serve the people of Devsar," he said.

# Meeting at IHRO's Delhi Headquarters Highlights Neglect of Wular Lake Tourism Promotion



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 20: At a recent meeting held at the International Human Rights Organization (IHRO) headquarters in Delhi, chaired by Dr. Nem Singh Premi ji and coordinated by Mr. Altaf Bhat ji, the disparity in tourism promotion between Dal Lake and Wular Lake was a key topic of discussion. Wular Lake, which holds the distinction of being Asia's second-largest freshwater lake and a crucial natural resource in Jammu and Kashmir,

has long been overlooked in terms of tourism development and conservation efforts.

IHRO's Kashmir team expressed their concerns regarding this neglect, emphasizing the importance of recognizing Wular Lake's ecological and economic potential. In contrast to the well-promoted Dal Lake, Wular has not received adequate attention from the relevant authorities, despite its significance for biodiversity, water regulation, and local livelihoods. The meeting also com-

mended the efforts of the Border Security Force (BSF) in Bandipora, under the leadership of DIG BSF, Bandipora for their initiative in organizing the Wular Half Marathon, scheduled for November 3, 2024. This event is seen as a significant step in raising awareness about the lake's importance and promoting its tourism potential.

In particular, IHRO extended its gratitude to Brigadier DIG BSF, Bandipora, Shri N. R. Babu, for his support in championing the cause of Wular Lake and contributing to the preservation and promotion of this vital natural resource.

M. Yakub Dunoo, the media in charge and Tourism wing for IHRO, expressed hope that this initiative would pave the way for more focused efforts to conserve Wular Lake and bring it into the spotlight, on par with other prominent tourist destinations in the valley.

# Central University of Jammu Conducts Breast Cancer Awareness Program



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 18: The Central University of Jammu in collaboration with the American Oncology Institute at Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences & Hospital, successfully organized a Breast Cancer Awareness Program today in the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium.

The event featured Dr. Surbhi Kudyar, a renowned specialist

in Breast Surgery with qualifications in General Surgery (MS) and Breast Oncoplasty (MCH), as the key speaker. Dr. Kudyar addressed critical topics related to breast cancer and benign breast diseases, providing valuable insights and information to the audience.

The program was coordinated by Ashutosh Gupta, Senior Marketing Manager, and Tanushree Khajuria, Deputy Manager Marketing, both from the American Oncology

Institute, Jammu. The event was well-attended, drawing over 130 staff members, students, and faculty from the university.

Dr. Vijayata Puri, Senior Medical Officer at the CUJ Health Centre, along with her dedicated supporting staff, Mrs. Alka Saini, Nursing Officer, Mr. Ankur Sharma, Medical Attendant, and Mr. Mohinder Singh, Attendant played a vital role in facilitating the program.

# JKTJAC Congratulates Newly Elected Representatives of Jammu & Kashmir UT

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 20: Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) Organised a Press Conference at Jammu under the leadership of UT President Vinod Sharma wherein senior leaders of JKTJAC participated.

While speaking on the occasion Mr Vinod Sharma on behalf of JKTJAC congratulated all the newly elected 90 representatives of Jammu Kashmir Legislative Assembly. He wished them heartiest Congratulations.

He also congratulated the newly formed Government of Jammu and Kashmir headed by Hon'ble Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Sahib and his council of ministers.

He also welcomed Ms Sakina Itoo as Education minister.

He said that after a gap of more than 5 years elected government has been formed which is a matter of pride for the people of Jammu and Kashmir in general and



employees in particular. He hoped that the new government will come up to the expectations of the employees and resolve their issues amicably.

On the occasion he also raised the burning issues of the teaching fraternity particularly teachers appointed under ReT scheme. He hoped that Govt. will get implemented the Govt order No. 469 edu of 2014 Dated 25.06.2014 regarding inclusion of 5 years ReT period for seniority and provision of transfer policy for Regularised ReT teachers.

He also raised another genuine issue of employ-

ees of the UT that NPS be scrapped and OPS be implemented in favour of all employees appointed on or after 01.01.2010.

He said that Hon'ble Chief Minister has assured in his election manifesto to implement OPS and they are hopeful of getting it resolved.

Mr Sharma on the occasion also appealed the government to revoke the order No 226(2) regarding retiring government employees forcefully which is anti employee.

On the occasion a unanimous appeal was made to the government to redress issues of the teaching fraternity.

Those who were present on the occasion included Surjit Chib, Rajesh Jamwal, Sham Sharma, Sukesh Khajuria, Subhash Chander, Khazan Singh, Mahesh Kumar, Lekh Raj Prihar, Ravinder Manhas, Sajjad Malik, Balwan Singh, Harlal Nag, Inderjeet Singh, Ashiq Jaraal, Naseer Ahmed, Mohd Rafi, Shamsher Singh, Pawan Sharma, Ashish Gandotra, Lal Singh, Ganshyam Sawhani, John Mohd, Kulbeer Singh, Rajit Singh, Sandeep Singh, Hem Raj, Mohinder Partap Singh, Ashwani and others

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL DIVISION RTIC JAMMU  
Notice INVITING TENDER

e-NIT MDJ/RTIC/18 of 2024-25 Dated 17-10-2024

For and on behalf of the "L. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir", The Executive Engineer Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu, invites online bids by e tendering mode from eligible bidders/ tenderers/ firms dealing with electromechanical/electrical works.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee(In Rs)	Earnest Money	Validity of Rates
Detailed estimate for repair & maintenance of 02 Ton cap. gates main/minors/H/R including replacement/repairs of its various components/fixtures etc. for their continuous and smooth operation on Main Tawi Canal.	Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu	200.00 (Rs. 100/- for PMT DIC/SSI Registered Firms) (Non-Refundable) In the shape of treasury Challan only in favour of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu payable at Jammu	Rs 4200/- (Rs 2100 for DIC/SSI Registered Firms) In the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu	Bid shall be valid for 180 days

Available

Position of Funds

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 17-10-2024 (4:30 P.M) and uploaded upto 01-11-2024 (1:00 P.M). The tender shall be opened on 02-11-2024 (1:00 P.M).
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- Bids must be accompanied by cost of Tender Document and bid security/ earnest monays specified in column 3 & 4 of the table. The cost of tender documents should be in the form of Treasury Challan only in favour of Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu.
- Furnishing of Hard copies of documents pertaining to e bids immediately after submission of e tenders have been dispensed with as per Govt Order No. O.M. no. A/24(2017-851) dated 07-06-2018. The same shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L-1 after opening of Financial Bids.
- The hard copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money including other relevant documents must be delivered by L-1 to the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu within 03 days of opening of tender.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, RTIC, Jammu on 02-11-2024 at 1:00 P.M
- The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall also be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, RTIC, Jammu during office hours on a convenient day.
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.

No: MDJ/RTIC/685-88  
Dated 17-10-2024

DIP/J-5855/24

Executive Engineer  
Mechanical Division  
RTIC, Jammu



## EDITORIAL

## TECH INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

The tech industry is experiencing rapid advancements that are reshaping various aspects of our daily lives, economies, and societies. In 2024, several key trends and innovations have emerged, driving significant change across sectors.

AI continues to dominate the tech landscape, with advancements in natural language processing, computer vision, and machine learning algorithms. The deployment of AI in industries such as healthcare, finance, and customer service has led to improved efficiency and productivity. For instance, AI-driven diagnostic tools are assisting medical professionals in identifying diseases earlier and more accurately. Additionally, AI chatbots are enhancing customer support by providing instant responses and personalized assistance, significantly improving user experience.

As ethical considerations around AI grow, companies are increasingly focusing on developing responsible AI systems. This includes addressing biases in algorithms and ensuring transparency in AI decision-making processes. Major tech firms are investing in AI ethics teams and frameworks to promote accountability and foster public trust.

Blockchain technology is evolving beyond cryptocurrencies. In 2024, we see a surge in decentralized finance (DeFi) applications that provide financial services without traditional intermediaries. Platforms enabling peer-to-peer lending, decentralized exchanges, and yield farming are gaining traction. This shift is democratizing access to financial services, particularly in regions with underbanked populations.

Moreover, non-fungible tokens (NFTs) have expanded from digital art to include applications in real estate, gaming, and intellectual property rights. This evolution showcases blockchain's potential to transform ownership and provenance verification across various industries.

As cyber threats become more sophisticated, the importance of robust cybersecurity measures has escalated. In 2024, we witness a significant push towards zero-trust security models, which assume that threats could be internal or external. This approach necessitates continuous verification of user identity and access, enhancing overall security posture.

Additionally, the integration of AI in cybersecurity is proving effective in threat detection and response. AI algorithms can analyze vast amounts of data to identify anomalies and predict potential breaches, allowing organizations to proactively mitigate risks.

The rollout of 5G networks is transforming the connectivity landscape. With increased bandwidth and reduced latency, 5G is enabling a wide range of IoT applications, from smart cities to autonomous vehicles. In 2024, businesses are leveraging IoT devices to enhance operational efficiency, gather real-time data, and improve decision-making.

Smart home devices are also becoming more interconnected, providing users with seamless control over their environments. As 5G continues to expand, we can expect further innovations in sectors like telemedicine, where real-time data transmission can enhance patient care and remote monitoring.

While still in its infancy, quantum computing is garnering attention for its potential to solve complex problems beyond the reach of classical computers. In 2024, tech giants and startups alike are investing heavily in quantum research, aiming to unlock breakthroughs in fields such as materials science, cryptography, and drug discovery.

Collaborations between academia and industry are essential in this domain, with researchers exploring practical applications that could revolutionize various sectors. As quantum technology matures, we anticipate a paradigm shift in computing capabilities.

With increasing awareness of environmental issues, tech companies are prioritizing sustainability in their operations and product offerings. Innovations in renewable energy technologies, such as advanced solar panels and energy storage solutions, are being integrated into tech products to reduce carbon footprints.

Additionally, the circular economy is gaining traction within the tech industry, promoting recycling and responsible disposal of electronic waste. Companies are exploring ways to design products for longevity and reparability, aligning business practices with environmental goals.

The pandemic accelerated the adoption of remote work, leading to a surge in collaboration tools and platforms. In 2024, businesses are refining their remote work strategies, leveraging technologies like virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) to create immersive work environments.

Enhanced video conferencing solutions and project management tools are becoming integral to maintaining productivity and team cohesion. As hybrid work models become the norm, companies are investing in technologies that facilitate seamless collaboration across physical and digital spaces.

The tech industry is on a transformative journey, driven by innovations that address contemporary challenges and improve our quality of life. As we move through 2024, the convergence of technologies such as AI, blockchain, and IoT will continue to shape the future, emphasizing the need for ethical considerations and sustainable practices. Embracing these developments will be crucial for businesses and individuals alike, paving the way for a more connected and resilient world.

By: O.N.KOUL

## Omar Abdullah –the New King of J&amp;K

The scion of Abdullah dynasty has emerged as the new king of Jammu and Kashmir as his NC –Congress alliance has got decisive majority .Omar has been sworn as the first chief minister of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir .Remember CM of a UT and as such he has to navigate the ship of governance in all together changed politico-social scenario and he should take the ship of JK to safe shore .Along with Omar ,five other legislators have also taken the oath of office and secrecy .Omar has given a right message by anointing the MLA from Nowshara Rajouri Shree Surinder Chowdhary as deputy chief minister who defeated the big wing of BJP ,the chief of the saffron party and he was adequately rewarded by Omar .It also proves that Omar gave due representation to Jammu region by anointing another legislator from far off Chamb constituency Mr Satish Sharma who had deserted Congress for not giving a ticket and he defeated the big gun Mr Tara Chand who was the former deputy chief minister of J&K .The NC's alliance partner Congress did not take any ministerial birth at present though it gave unconditional support to the Omar led coalition .Another pre poll ally of NC ,the CPI[M] whose lone MLA is Mohd.Yousf Tarigami & and this party also stayed away taking a ministerial post in the coalition cabinet sworn today on 16th October in prestigious SKICC situated at the bank of Dal Lake .Whatever it is ,Omar Abdullah is the new king of Jammu and Kashmir .Just after his swearing in as the maiden chief minister of the UT ,he has said that

his government will try to come up to the expectations of the people of J&K and he did not stop here but said the people of JK have suffered a lot during these years for not having a democratic government and that he will try his best to give an impression to the alienate people of the UT ,that the government is their own and it will take care of the people and address the genuine issues of the people .But as the politico-social scenario is existing in J&K ,the chief minister Omar Abdullah will no doubt will be the new king of Jammu and Kashmir ,but his wings had already been clipped by the MHA as its earlier notification had given increased powers to the LG of JK Union territory much in advance of the assembly elections .So new chief minister has to function in a totally different scenario and he has one side please the power of Delhi and on the other hand has to keep LG in good mood .Besides Omar has the tough job of coordinating the alliance partners though Congress and CPI [M] has not entered into government for the time being .Omar has to make a tight rope walk while carrying on the work of governance .The chief minister has to tread cautiously and carefully as any misstep can cost him and his coalition government dearly .Thus he should act in such a way as he should not annoy centre government and the LG of the UT .He should work in close liaison and coordination with the LG who is the constitutional head of the JK UT .At the same time Omar has to also work in coordination with the centre government which is the mantra of a federation and the unitary spirit of the constitution .He should not pursue any such

agenda and work at cross roads with the centre and thus he should not do any such thing which will precipitate the relations between his government and the centre .Omar Abdullah has become the king of Naya Kashmir and one should say that he has become the new king of Naya Jammu and Kashmir .He has outlined the priorities of his government and said that restoration of statehood is his first priority and for that the new government will pass a resolution for full statehood for Jammu and Kashmir .He added that his government and NC is committed to restore article 370 but its pursuance can wait .We have many other issues concerning the people and the people of J&K have big hopes on the government and said his government will try to come up to the expectation of the people .Omar Abdullah is the new king of J&K UT ,but he has to work within the confines of the J&K reorganization Act and within the constraints set by the UT's rules and regulations But working within these constraints he has to carve a political space for him and work for the betterment of the people of J&K .Congress has not entered into the coalition government at the first instance because it wants the statehood to be first restored ,but it has pledged full support to the coalition government .There are also reports of differences and tussle between the NC and Congress even before forming the coalition and the Congress has thus extended outside support to the coalition government headed by Omar .It is not that easy to manage a coalition .Omar has to keep his flock together and for this he should fully master the art of managing coalition .However he

has said that he will try to strengthen the relations between the UT government and the union government .Omar Abdullah has emerged the new king of Naya J&K and he will work for the betterment of the people of the Jammu and Kashmir .Omar has taken the mantle of the coalition government but there are many challenges before the new government .He said that his government will be as much as of those who voted for NC ,but it is as much of those people who did not vote in favor of NC .The winning of 42 seats from Kashmir shows and proves that the era of NC has not ended but is strong today .GOI is committed to restore the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir as prime minister Modi and home minister Amit Shah has umpteen times in the recent past stated that union government is committed to the restoration of statehood to J&K and as such Omar government has not do much in this respect as at an appropriate time the centre will give back statehood to J&K and there is not an iota of doubt about it .Omar Abdullah's government should not take any confrontation with either LG and the centre government but take both of these in confidence to pilot the ship of the governance to safe destination .All the above shows that Omar is not the full king but a half king and thus he should work in close coordination with the centre and the LG in the interest of the people of J&K .May God help Omar to deliver best for the people.

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

## Basic Shortcomings of Primary Education

By: Vijay Garg

There is a lot of talk about making quality and free primary education mandatory among the government's priorities, but the results the government machinery and schools are giving are worrying. It is well known how government schools fare in a country like India, leaving aside private institutions. There is also a bitter truth that in ancient times our childhood education, which can now be called primary, was different from the rest in the world. The world still gives an example of the oldest tradition of Gurukul.Is. For this reason India was called Vishwa Guru. Gurukuls were first influenced by the Mughals and then got closed by the British. In this system, punishment was not given, but during the Mughal era, a change was made and the teacher was punished. The British government even declared Gurukuls illegal. Examples are given of what the Gurukul system of primary education was like. Concerns of foreign scholars also came forward on how it was destroyed. Famous American writer, historian and philosopher William James Durant's book 'The Store' has been written very clearly in 'Tree of Civilization'. Some of its lines show the truth, 'Our civilization originated from India. Sanskrit is the mother of all European languages. Our entire philosophy originates from Sanskrit. Our mathematics is its contribution. Democracy and self-governance also originate from India. See the irony that today pain is expressed about the education system in that country, but the truth is in front of us. In the same book he writes that 'In the case of India in a concrete manner, the former and I have proved to be very poor. Made two trips to the West before writing,

See cities from north to south. In comparison to the old civilization, my knowledge is very insignificant and fragmentary. Its philosophy, literature, religion and art have no parallel in the world. The endless wealth of this country is still reflected in its ruined glory and its 'unarmed struggle for freedom'. Here I saw hard working people dying of hunger in front of me. This was not due to famine or population growth, but due to the tactics of British rule.Were living. This heinous crime against Indians has been recorded in history. Despite being an American, I condemn this atrocities of the British. When the British came to India, there was a well-organized education structure in the country. Children used to study in Gurukul. The British destroyed this ancient education system and promoted vocational schools. He destroyed half of the ancient education system as soon as he came. After this, education in India was not easy for the common people. There were seven lakh 32 thousand Gurukuls here till 1850. i.e. every villageThere was a primary school, whose education system was very advanced. In the year 1858, the 'Indian Education Act' was made, the draft of which was Macaulay. In this way, as part of a big conspiracy, conspiracies were hatched to end the existence of Gurukuls and paint them in western color and follow the policy of divide and rule. By suppressing the Gurukuls, such an education system was created that even after 77 years of independence, it seems to have gone astray. After India, Denmark was the first country in the world to introduce a government controlled system of compulsory mass education. hereSchools developed in 1721. In the year 1814, the report of the Coordination Commission became the basis of the education system. Whereas the English

system of primary education in England developed in comparison to other countries of Western Europe. In the nineteenth century most primary education was provided by the Church, mainly to poor children. The government was not interested in expanding education. \* Prepared a State Code of rules relating to the organization of primary schools in 1860 and adjusted it in 1862 2. quality of school curricula andA national system of monitoring the reading and writing levels of students was created. This involved funding for some schools and testing mathematics skills. It was decided. By the year 1900, North American countries, Australia, New Zealand and some countries of North-Western Europe played a leading role in the spread of school education. Most of the Northern European countries Enrollment in countries ranged from 60 to 75 percent, while in other regions, particularly Asia (except Japan), the Middle East, and North Africa, schooling coverage remained low.R was quite low. Japan had the most remarkable position in the nineteenth century in the spread of primary education. The expansion of primary education in Thailand was more successful than in Japan. It can be understood that its inspiration came from the Indian Gurukul system itself." The whole world understood the importance of education in Indian Gurukuls. There is no hesitation in saying that primary education, "which India started centuries ago with the Gurukul tradition, became the pioneer of the world. It gave a message to all on education, especially primary education. ButDue to hatred, mutual disunity and slavery, a conspiracy was hatched to end it. Macaulay's move was successful in this. Nevertheless, the world had understood the Indian message

of the importance of child education. Be that as it may, India itself has highlighted the importance of mass education for nation building and strength. Was woken up. From slavery After independence, changes continued to take place in India regarding education, especially primary education. What an irony it is that a country with 100 percent literacy in 1823 came down to just 12 percent literacy in 1947. To deal with this challenge todayThese efforts are being made. Even after seventy-seven years of independence, the gap in education, gender, linguistic and geographical differences could not be bridged. This is clearly visible in primary education. According to the Annual Status of Education Report 2023, one in three eighth grade students cannot read at the level of a second grade student and more than half cannot do basic division. A quarter of 14 to 18 year olds are in their regional | Cannot read second grade text in languages fluently. today government controlled primaryThere is a need to pay more attention to schools. In the new era, if we move towards strengthening our foundation by providing more facilities to teachers, a new environment will be created in the entire country. Teachers will also have to work with full dedication. By ending discrimination between rich-poor, caste and high-low in education, we can take the country back towards the Gurukul tradition.

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



## 'Miss World Undeclared' Staged at Natrang: A Powerful Exploration of Beauty and Identity

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 20: 'Miss World Undeclared', a play in Hindi, written by Satyendra Shrivastava and directed by Neeraj Kant, was staged here today at Natrang's Studio Theatre Kachi Chawni in its Weekly Theatre Series, Sunday Theatre.

The play 'Miss World Undeclared' presented at Natrang Studio unfolds the sad saga of all the those people, particularly Asians who reside in the developed European Countries and are subject to racial discrimina-



tion and hatred from the natives as they think their resources are shared and reduced by them. This was showed from the point of view of a school

going girl, 'Noorie' who was regularly bullied by her classmates who have fair complexion. They tease her for not being as beautiful as them to the

extent that she decides to discontinue her education. But her mother, a very wise lady makes her realize that the criteria for being beautiful is not being fair or having external beauty, the real beauty is internal beauty and anyone with good heart and calm mind is much more beautiful than those people who are just externally good looking. Motivated by her mother, she goes to the school and comes back very happy as on that day the result of Miss World pageant gets declared and the winner was an

Indian girl. The play ends with a positive and inspirational note that "it does not matter how we look but it really matters what we are" and that is the key to real and eternal happiness.

Natrang's young artists who presented a remarkable performance included Vrinda Gujral, Mehak Chib, Priya Ashok Gupta and Lalita Sharma. Lights were designed and operated by Neeraj Kant whereas the music was scored by Kushal Bhat. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen

## Bicycle for Change Club Organizes Anti-Drug Rally in Kathua on Gandhi Jayanti and Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 20: In commemoration of Gandhi Jayanti and Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti, the Bicycle for Change Club (BFCC) organized a highly impactful cycle rally themed "Say No to Drugs". The rally, aimed at raising awareness against drug abuse, was flagged off by MLA Kathua, Dr. Bharat Bhushan, saw participation more than 500 cyclists. The event was organized with the generous support of Welspun as the main sponsor, with Satyam Cements, MD Pharma, Atlas Infra, and Dr. Dee's Path Lab, Sharma Carter's and Tent House Kathua as co-sponsors, and Radio Nation as the radio partner.

Starting from the Sports Stadium Kathua, the rally proceeded through



various significant points including Tangri, Dreamland Park, Shaheed Sunil Chowdhary Chowk, and Jarai Morh, culminating at Mukherjee Chowk. The cyclists covered a distance of 5 kilometers, spreading the message of unity and collective action against drug addiction.

The rally was coordinated in association with the Department of Sports, Excise Department, Department of Information, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the JK Private

School Association, all of whom provided seamless logistical and safety support.

Following the rally, a vibrant cultural event was organized at Mukherjee Chowk featuring traditional Dogri Songs, Gaddayali Songs, cultural dances, and an impactful nukkad natak (street play) aimed at raising awareness against the dangers of drug abuse. The cultural performances were a tribute to the rich heritage of the region

and added depth to the event's anti-drug message.

Additionally, anti-drug awareness lectures were conducted, where experts addressed the cyclists and participants, warning them about the devastating effects of drug addiction and the importance of adopting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

President Bicycle for Change Club, Sunil Sharma presented the welcome address and pledged their full commitment to fighting the menace of drugs. Speaking at the event, Cdr Khajuria vowed to "fight this menace with heart and soul," urging the youth to join this cause for a drug-free society. Sardar Maninder Singh Media Spokesperson put all sincerely appeal the young cyclists to spread the message to away

from drugs

MLA Dr. Bharat Bhushan, while flagging off the rally, remarked, "On this special occasion of Gandhi Jayanti and Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti, it is our responsibility to honor their legacy by fighting the social evils that plague our society. The youth is our future, and we must protect them from the clutches of drugs. I commend BFCC for taking this bold step in the right direction."

The Program is attended by Vice president Adv. Rahul, Deep Sharma Add Gen secretary, Maninder Singh, Media Secretary, Narinder Singh Gen secretary, Sachin Sharma, Shubham, Anan, Rahul Kad, Arun, Amu, Narinder Raina, Sidharth, Shubham, parikshit, Sr. Cyclist, Manuj Kesar, Seemant sharma and many other were present

## J&K EJAC, NMOPS, and JKTF Joint Delegation Congratulates Sajjad Shaheen on His Election as MLA of Banihal

Top News Report

BANIHAL, Oct 20: A high-level delegation from the J&K Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC), National Movement for Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS), and Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF), led by Mr. Mohammed Ashraf Sheikh, Provincial President EJAC and State President NMOPS/JKTF, met with the newly elected Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from 54-Banihal, Mr. Sajjad Shaheen, to extend their warmest congratulations on his resounding victory in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections.

The meeting underscored mutual respect and commitment to fostering positive collabora-



tion between government representatives and public sector employees. Speaking during the interaction, Mr. Sheikh remarked, "Mr. Shaheen's election is a beacon of hope for the people of Banihal. We believe his tenure will usher in a new era of progress, particularly in the education sector. We look forward to working

together to address key challenges and ensure public welfare."

The delegation presented Mr. Shaheen with a token of respect, symbolizing the trust and admiration of the teaching community. Mr. Shaheen expressed his gratitude, stating, "I am deeply honored by this visit and the faith shown in my leadership. I assure all

teachers, employees, and citizens of my unwavering commitment to resolving the issues that matter most to them."

The delegation took the opportunity to highlight several pressing concerns, including:

Reinstatement of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).  
Improvement of school infrastructure and provi-

sion of modern facilities.

Addressing teacher shortages in rural and underserved areas.

Streamlining administrative processes to ensure timely promotions and reduce bureaucratic hurdles.

Increased investment in rural education to bridge gaps in quality and access.

Ashraf Sheikh expressed his appreciation for Mr. Shaheen's patient hearing of their concerns and pledged the delegation's full cooperation in supporting government policies aimed at benefiting the public. "We are committed to contributing towards making government programs a success and providing the best possible services to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Mr. Sheikh added.

## Karva Mata is the Form of Maa Durga Jagdamba" - Guru Maa Lakshmi Chandel

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 20: National Valmiki Sena spokesperson Guru Maa Lakshmi Chandel "Today, on the occasion of the holy fast of Karva Chauth, while explaining the glory of the fast, said that Maa Karva Chauth is the form of Maa Jagdamba"

Women of the entire world including North India keep this fast for the long life of their husbands. In ancient times, for the long life of Satyapativrata Devi Savitri and her husband Satyavan, Devi Savitri herself fought with Yamraj, the god of death, and brought back her husband's life from Yamraj because Savitri's husband Satyavan had a short life due to which he died, it was certain that whatever is written by the creator will happen. By changing the pen of the creator herself, Savitri got power from Yamraj by observing this fast and brought back her husband's life. This was possible only when Lord Brahma's son Narad ji



came and he suggested Savitri to keep the fast of Karva Mata in the form of Goddess Durga for the long life of her husband. By doing this, Goddess Savitri got an enlightened power and through that power Mata Sati reached Yamlok from the earth and through the whole universe and brought back her husband's life. It is believed that this practice started from then and today all Sanatani women are following the Sanatan tradition of Karva Chauth this year and this fast is kept

on this occasion. Today on the occasion of Karva Chauth, Army spokesperson Guru Maa Lakshmi Chandel also kept a fast for the long life of her husband and broke the fast with rituals after making all the mothers and sisters aware of the story of Mata Satyavan Savitri. On this occasion, Guru Mata gave a message to all the people and said that all men should respect their wives and fulfill all their wishes, this is also their duty and responsibility.

## Sunil Dimple Congratulates Mubaraq Gull and Advocates for Jammu & Kashmir Statehood

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 20: Sunil Dimple, president of the Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, extended his congratulations to former speaker and seven-time MLA Mubaraq Gull on his nomination as Pro-tem Speaker, wishing him the best in his new role. Dimple expressed confidence in Gull's commitment to fulfilling the promises outlined in the National Conference (NC) manifesto, urging patience from the public as the government works towards these goals.

Gull reassured Dimple that the Omar Abdullah-led alliance government is diligently addressing the challenges faced over the past decade in Jammu and Kashmir. Dimple welcomed the recent clearance from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha regarding the resolution for granting statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

In a heartfelt appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dimple urged the immediate announcement of the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, emphasizing the importance of implementing the conditions of accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh on October 26. He highlighted the resolution passed by the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, who have



suffered since the abrogation of Article 370.

Dimple articulated several demands, including: Restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and Article 370 Implementation of the accession conditions

Reinstatement of the Darbar Move

Regularization of all daily wagers and other employment categories

Prioritization of youth employment

He asserted that the abrogation of Article 370 has adversely impacted the future of the youth in the region, and emphasized the need for immediate action from the government. Dimple called for the reintroduction of state subject laws and urged the government to address the rising unem-

ployment and poverty in Jammu and Kashmir.

Additionally, Dimple demanded the unification of Ladakh, POK, and Gilgit-Baltistan with Jammu and Kashmir, reaffirming the necessity of implementing the accession conditions established by Maharaja Hari Singh. He pledged to continue the fight for the restoration of Articles 370 and 35-A until his last breath, asserting that Jammu and Kashmir's statehood will return within a defined timeframe.

Dimple concluded by warning of potential agitation if the government does not initiate the Darbar Move and address the pressing issues faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

## NSF flays VC for disobeyed the Chancellor's Order

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 20: The National Secular Forum (NSF) flays the University authorities for disobeying the Jammu University Council, the top decision making body of the University headed by none other than the Chancellor and the Governor order for one person given one post in the university administration.

Addressing the Press-Conference here today, Roshan Sharma District President and In-charge University Unit said that administrative machinery of Jammu University is not working properly as per expectations of students and Scholars, which is adversely affecting their studies.

He said that in the 80th University Council held on 25th April 2016, then Governor,

the Chancellor made a number of recommendations wherein the item no 80.25 of the Council pertains to One Man-One Post, but it could also not be adhered to and VC went ahead out of way to allow some of his favourites to hold two positions disrespecting the recommendations of university council.

Quoting the example of violating the decision of One Man One Post taken by University Council, Sharma said that University Vice Chancellor went ahead to crush the decision of University Council by which is the highest body, Sharma said adding that one Prof Rajeev Rattan who is Head of Education Department has been given additional charge of Director CDC, IGNOU Coordinator University Campus, Project Director evaluation For



B.ed/M.ed, Dean Faculty of Education thus infringing the decision of Council to discourage one man one position in the affairs of varsity.

Sharma said adding that one Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Coordinators all Campus JU has been given additional charge of Director Sports and Physical Education. Sharma further said that there are many other teachers who are holding

more than one administrative position in the campus and citing the names, he added that Prof. Jasbir Singh, Director, Kishtwar Campus, HOD Philosophy Department, Prof. Anju Bhasin DAA, Dean Faculty of Science and HOD Geology and Prof Sangita Gupta, Dean Faculty of Social Science, HOD Psychology and HOD Library and Information Science.

He further said that Prof Anju Sharma is Director, Directorate of Hindi and Coordinator Hindi PG Centre for Distance and Online Education.

He added that Pankaj Srivastava is Director Centre for Distance and Online Education, In-charge entrance examination centre and Member Secretary JKSET.

"Instead of adhocism and giving additional

charge to some favourites, the Vice-Chancellor should go for a viable solution by filling these posts on a permanent basis," he said. "We fail to understand how a person occupying more than one post delivers justice with the administration as well as the scholars," Sharma said while questioning the rationale behind such a move.

He added that the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor should come forward to save the University from the clutches of inexperienced Vice Chancellor who is hell bent to destroy the whole cadre and academic atmosphere in the campus.

We appeal to the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor of University to take cognizance of it and initiate measures to streamline the functioning."

## Annual Consciousness Test Conducted at Government Senior Secondary School Badbar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 20: An Annual Consciousness Test was successfully conducted at Government Senior Secondary School Badbar in District Baramulla, Punjab, with the support of Tarkashil Society Punjab (Reg.) Unit Longowal. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students, demonstrating their commitment to academic excellence.

Master Avnish Kumar and Junior Assistant Avtar Singh Bhaini Mehraj highlighted the collaborative efforts of various educational leaders, including District Education Officer Ms. Malka Rani, Deputy District Education Officer Dr. Barjinderpal Singh, Principal Nidha Altaf, and School Head Jasbir Kaur. Under Master Avnish Kumar's guidance, a significant number of students registered for the intel-



ligence test, facilitated by trained teachers.

The Chetna Parakh exam, based on the CEP framework, aimed to enhance students' knowledge through scientific, social, literary, and educational questionnaires. Master Avnish Kumar emphasized the importance of such exams in fostering a competitive spirit and improving understanding of exam questions, stating his commitment to elevating the learning standards for student development.

Special recognition was given to Secretary Master Balveer Chand Longowal, Jujhar Singh (in charge of

Tarkashil Society Unit Longowal), and Press Secretary Master Birbal Singh for their efforts in organizing the event. Invigilators from Tarkashil Society, including Sukhbir Singh and Sandeep Singh, contributed to the smooth conduct of the examination. Lecturers Sunil Kumar Sagi and Master Rishi Kumar motivated students to work hard, while Madam Rajni Garg provided additional support.

The event was also attended by Maghar Singh and Kamalpreet Kaur, who assisted students throughout the examination, further reinforcing the collaborative spirit of the initiative.



## Modern twist to tradition - Karwa Chauth

Rich jewel tones, heritage weaves and oversized maang tikas, if you are looking for last-minute inspiration to deck up for Karwa Chauth, we've got you covered. The traditional festival now enjoys a glamorised make over, courtesy Bollywood. Shadi ka lehenga is now upcycled and wardrobe divided into sargi, day-wear and the evening-do! Depending on what you intend to do with the day — ramp show, party or stay cocooned at home — do it in style!

We rope in designer help to keep you at pace with what's trending. If Karwa Chauth remains one day when you can wear lehenga and not look over the top, closing following its supremacy on the day are lehenga-sarees and Anarkali gowns. "Lehenga-sarees and



Anarkali gowns have gained huge popularity because of their versatility, offering a modern twist to classic festive-wear," shares designer Archana Jaju, who has a passion for reviving traditional Indian craftsmanship. Key colour schemes for a festive wardrobe depict rich jewel tones with emerald, ruby and sapphire. That said, if you are black and ivory loyalists, in this day and age, nobody is going to judge you for offbeat choices either!

Then there are the Karwa parties offering exquisite mehendi, stylish gel nail art, relaxing foot spa, even katha and all of them witness the best of fashion. "Brightest of bright colours, short kurtis with sharara and lehengas are in," offers Ritu Kochhar, founder director of the International Institute of Fashion Design (INIFD). Even the western co-ord sets have inched their way in. "Hand embroidery on co-ord teamed with stoles, ornate kurtas, asymmetrical

dresses and draped skirts, one is spoilt for choices," adds Kochhar. If you are looking for something that you pre-own, make a case for heritage weaves. "Beautifully worked hand-embroidered detailing along with rich heritage weaves like Banarasi and Chikankari are also making their way back," says Jaju. Moving away from fast fashion, today fashionistas are investing and celebrating traditional weaves. "Sustainability is the focus, more consumers are

opting for eco-friendly fabrics and pieces in handloom," Jaju adds. Wardrobe in place, it's not the time to go demure on accessories. Go all out! Bold yet elegant, such as statement jhumkas, oversized maang tikas, and layered necklaces, nothing is over the top this season. "Ethnic-wear, along with Indo-Western jewellery, like fish or bird motifs in earpieces to stone chokers, jewellery today celebrates both the traditional and contemporary styles," says Kochhar. Karwa Chauth is also just the right time to show light to one's mangalsutra! Now that black beads have moved from the confines of necklaces to bracelets and rings, flaunt them along with opulent polkis to step out in style!

## Megha Sharma talks about shooting her first music video



Megha Sharma, who has been part of shows like Baal Krishna and Mahakali—Anth Hi Aarambh Hai, and was last seen in Pandya Stores, shot for a music video with renowned music director Sajid Khan recently.

The brothers Sajid-Wajid are a name to reckon with in the industry, and the song was launched on their YouTube channel.

Megha shared, "It was my first music video, and I feel lucky to have worked with Sajid sir. It's a great opportunity for me.

The ghazal I worked on is basically a tribute to his late brother Wajid Khan. I learned a lot during the shooting process because Sajid sir very experienced. I had a great experience."

## Neena Gupta takes break from work to help daughter settle down, plans return with 'Panchayat 4'

Neena Gupta who recently became a grandmother has taken small break from work.

Talking exclusively to agency, Neena Gupta said "I refused two projects because I want my daughter to settle down. I have taken a small break for 2-3 months. Now I will directly join Panchayat-4." Adding to it she said "I enjoy taking care of my daughter."

Neena Gupta recently won a National Award for Best Supporting Actress in the 'Uunchai' movie that was released in 2022. Expressing her feelings about the same, she said, "Winning a National Award is a big deal for me, especially for 'Uunchai'. It means a lot to me, and I always wanted to work with Sooraj ji (Sooraj Barjatya). I am very happy to receive it; this is my fourth National Award."

Gupta will soon be seen in a Malayalam web series "1000 Babies". Talking about the series, she said, "So when I heard the script, I was like totally taken aback because it



was very shocking and a very very interesting concept especially the way it ended. It poses a lot of questions in your head as to 'what now'. That is why I accepted it, because I liked the concept and the storyline and of course my role."

She also spoke about her project selection process, stating "I don't have any language criteria or any specific criteria for choosing. It could be any language, national or international; if the role is good and

the script is good, I'm willing to do it."

Regarding her upcoming projects, she mentioned, "Well, I've just completed my work on 'Metro,' which is currently in production. Anurag Basu's film is coming out, and of course, 'Panchayat' will be released. I have four projects ready. One is 'Ari' with Rakul Preet, another is an anthology, and one film, 'Hindi Bindi,' is about to be released in November in Sydney."

## Shraddha Kapoor decodes success of 'Stree 2', says her best is yet to come

Bollywood actor Shraddha Kapoor says the credit for the resounding success of her latest movie 'Stree 2' belongs to its "fabulous team" that crafted a sequel true to the spirit of the original.

The Amar Kaushik-directed horror comedy, a sequel to the 2019 film 'Stree', has emerged as the highest-grossing Hindi film of all time at the domestic box office, with a collection of over Rs 600 crore.

At an event, where the iconic magazine Screen was relaunched, Kapoor called the film a "pure cinematic joy" and praised the collaborative effort of the crew and her co-stars Rajkumar Rao, Pankaj Tripathi, Abhishek Banerjee, and Aparshakti Khurana.

"We have brilliant actors in the film. We have some really entertaining dialogues. So, it has been a fabulous team effort and pure cinematic joy. I'm really proud to be a part of this film," Kapoor said.

For Kapoor, it all began with 'Stree', set in the small town of Chandreri, Madhya Pradesh, where an evil spirit



named 'Stree' abducts men during the festival season. The story was based on the urban legend of 'Nale Ba', which went viral in Karnataka in the 1990s.

"It was about six years ago, and Maddock Films was just up and coming as a production house. All the actors were at very different stages in our careers. We were also growing in our own ways," she said.

"My personal reaction when I heard the first part was that I felt like I hadn't heard a film like that before. It was based on an urban legend, and I was literally falling off the sofa when I heard it. I was so glad that they came to me for this film, which is pure entertainment. I was genuinely laughing at the dialogues and the scenes," she added.

Kapoor, 37, said the movie and her character received immense love from audiences.

"My character is this mysterious girl who comes and goes, and you're constantly wondering about her presence. So, it all began there. And hats off to our producer, our writ-

ers, and my director for really cracking the sequel because it's important to not make a sequel for the sake of it.

"You really have to have some substance if you're going to bring people to the theatre and garner genuine appreciation. I feel they stayed true to how a sequel should be made. They did a super job by cracking the story of 'Stree 2', getting all the entertainment factors into the film," she said.

Kapoor, known for movies such as 'Aashiqui 2', 'Ek Villain', 'Chhichhore', and 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar', also opened up about her approach to selecting films. "I believe that my best is yet to come, and I definitely want to feel, when I am going to be a part of a film, that it is going to be something exciting for me as an actor... to be a part of a particular story that is really riveting, that may have a message subliminally passed on to the audience. I am in that headspace right now," she said.

The actor also said her pace of work has changed.

## Shruti Haasan says some men always expect her to pay on dates

Shruti Haasan recently discussed relationships and dating, on Tinder Swipe Ride. In conversation with Kusha Kapila, the actor revealed what she looks for in a partner and detailed her past experiences dating men who always expected her to pick up the tab.

Shruti Haasan on dating

Shruti stated in the chat that some men have expected her to always pay on dates because she's financially stable and has 'so much money'. She said, "I feel like financial independence for women is super important, but on the flip side, I have to say, because I have been financially independent for so long, I have instances where the guy just doesn't offer to pay spend times. Because they are like you have money."

She added that while paying for things is her 'love language' she has learnt her lesson, "And I offer...you want it, I will get it. I'll pay the bill because that's my nature and that's my love language.

And after three months, I will be like, nine times we have eaten out, and you have not paid. And he is like, oh, but I thought you love it, and you have so much money, and then I am like no. So now I am very particular that it's split."

Shruti also shared in the video that her ideal man would be someone with a 'good sense of humour' and someone 'who likes to have fun'. She also advised that men and women should be 'financially sensitive' while in relationships and go on dates to places that can be affordable to both.



Shruti last publicly dated artist Santanu Hazarika but the two split earlier this year.

Upcoming work  
Shruti was last seen in Prasanth Neel's Salaar:

Part 1 - Ceasefire. She will soon star in Salaar: Part 2 - Shouryaanga Parvam in Telugu. In Tamil, she's starring in Lokesh Kanagaraj's Coolie with Rajinikanth.

## Ananya Nagalla hits back at allegations of casting couch in Telugu film industry

Actor Ananya Nagalla recently got defensive when asked about the casting couch in the Telugu film industry. When a reporter asked her to speak about it at a press meet for her upcoming film Pottel, the actor called allegations of all female actors facing casting couch 'bullsh\*t'.

Ananya Nagalla on casting couch

A reporter at the press conference claimed that whenever a female actor is 'given a chance' in the Telugu film industry, they're asked for 'commitment' (euphemism for casting couch). The reporter also claimed to have been told by industry insiders that agreements (NDA) are signed for it and that actors' remuneration also depends on whether they agree to it or not.

Ananya got defensive and said, "How are you so sure while asking this question? No, it's



not there." When the reporter pressed the issue further, she added, "No, it's 100% wrong, and I've never faced it. I can't deny that it might happen in the industry, but we always tend to look at only the negative. To say no one gives

opportunities without commitment is bullsh\*t," apologising for using a cuss word.

The reporter persisted, telling Ananya that they were basing their questions on what people from the film industry had told them.

The actor replied, "Like how you're basing your opinion of the industry on what you've heard, I'm basing it on what I've experienced."

This comes at a time when the Malayalam film industry's shortcomings were exposed in the Hema Committee report. From alleged sexual harassment to exploitation of workers, the report detailed alleged poor working conditions in Mollywood.

After the report was released, Samantha Ruth Prabhu and other Women in Cinema Collective (WCC) members urged the Telangana government to publish the findings of the report submitted to them years ago. Choreographer Jani Master was recently accused of rape by a colleague when she was a minor. His National Award has been revoked following these allegations.



## NSG, NIA teams arrive at 'mysterious' blast site outside CRPF school in Delhi's Rohini

Fire trucks, bomb squad, police rush to spot after loud blast heard

NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (Agencies): Teams from the National Security Guard (NSG) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) have arrived at the blast site along with Delhi Police's Special Cell to probe the cause of the explosion and examine any potential terrorist angle in the case.

A blast call was reported near the CRPF School in Sector 14, Rohini, this morning, causing damage to nearby structures. However, no casualties were reported, police officials said on Sunday.

According to a police, "At around 07:47 AM, a PCR call was received reporting a blast near CRPF School in Sector 14, Rohini. The caller mentioned hearing a loud noise." Upon reaching the scene, the police found that a portion of



the school wall was damaged. "A foul smell was also noticed at the spot," the official added. The security agencies had also scrapped white powder from the wall of the CRPF.

In addition to the damaged school wall, nearby property

was also affected. "The windows of a nearby shop and a car parked close to the scene sustained damage due to the blast," said the officer.

Fortunately, no one was injured in the incident. Authorities have cordoned off

the area, and specialized teams have been deployed to investigate.

Meanwhile, CM Atishi in a post on X said, "The incident of Bomb Blast outside a school in Rohini is exposing Delhi's lax security system."

"The responsibility of law and order in Delhi lies with the central government of BJP. But the BJP leaves its work and spends all its time in stopping the work of the elected government of Delhi. This is the reason why Delhi today is like the Mumbai underworld of the 1990s. BJP has no intention to work. If the people of Delhi mistakenly gave them the responsibility of the Delhi government, then they will do the same for schools, hospitals, electricity and water, which is the law and order of Delhi today," she added.

## 12 Killed as bus rams into auto in Rajasthan's Dholpur



NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (Agencies): Twelve people were killed after a sleeper bus collided with a tempo (three wheeled auto-rickshaw) in Rajasthan's Dholpur district, officials confirmed on Sunday.

According to the police, the incident occurred on Saturday night, claiming the lives of 12 people, including children.

Shiv Lahari Meena, in charge of Bari Kotwali Police Station, told the

media, "Yesterday at around 11 pm, a sleeper bus was travelling from Dholpur to Jaipur. The accident occurred near Sunipur, involving a tempo. Twelve people have lost their lives in the accident, including three adult women, the tempo driver, and several children."

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma acknowledged the accident and directed the administration to ensure proper medical treat-

ment for the injured. "The news of lives lost in the tragic road accident in Dholpur is extremely distressing. District administration officials have been instructed to ensure timely and adequate medical care for the injured. I pray to Lord Shri Ram for peace for the departed souls and a speedy recovery for the injured," he said.

Former Rajasthan chief minister and Congress leader Ashok Gehlot also expressed his grief on X.

"The loss of 12 lives in the road accident in Dholpur is deeply saddening. I pray to God for peace for the departed souls and a quick recovery for those injured," Mr Gehlot said.

## Maharashtra poll schedule is BJP's ploy to limit MVA's time for government formation: Sena (UBT)

MUMBAI, Oct 20 (Agencies): Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday alleged that the Election Commission's Maharashtra poll schedule, which gives only 48 hours for government formation, is the BJP's ploy to ensure the MVA is unable to stake a claim.

The current assembly's term ends on November 26. The state will go to polls on November 20, and the votes will be counted on November 23.

Speaking to reporters, the Rajya Sabha MP alleged, "The BJP with Amit Shah seems to have accepted that the party would not win the Maharashtra assembly polls. There appears to be a strategy to limit the time available for the Maha Vikas Aghadi to discuss and decide about government formation. If the MVA constituents fail to stake a claim, the governor will recommend the President's Rule for six



months."

Raut claimed the BJP was taking proactive steps to keep the MVA from returning to power.

"Additionally, the ECI has scheduled the polls in such a way that it restricts the MVA's opportunity to form a government effectively," he said.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader also pointed out that the counting will take place on November 23, which means the MVA partners—Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress, NCP (SP) and other small parties—will have only 48 hours for government formation, and this was unfair.

He alleged, "The

ECI's actions are like that of a BJP spokesperson. It supports the EVM but conveniently keeps mum when we speak about the alleged tampering of these machines in the Haryana state elections. The commission has not taken any action on complaints about the misuse of money during the Lok Sabha elections."

Raut further claimed Chief Minister Eknath Shinde decided to distribute Rs 15 crore in some 200 assembly constituencies just before the state polls were announced, and it was the government's money.

## Influx of buses from other states increasing pollution in Delhi, claims CM Atishi

Environment Minister Gopal Rai pointed out that air quality fluctuates significantly late at night and early in the morning, coinciding with the arrival and departure of buses.

NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Sunday said one of the biggest contributors to pollution in the Anand Vihar area is the influx of buses from other states, adding the Delhi government will engage with the Uttar Pradesh government to implement anti-pollution measures at their bus depot near the national capital.

She made these remarks while inspecting pollution control measures at the Anand Vihar bus depot along with Environment Minister Gopal Rai.

Highlighting the issue, Atishi said, "Anand Vihar, which lies on the Delhi-UP border, remains a hotspot where AQI levels are the highest. This area sees a large influx of buses



from outside Delhi, and there is also the Kaushambi bus depot nearby."

"While Delhi runs CNG and electric buses, the Kaushambi bus depot receives diesel buses. We plan to engage with the UP government to implement pollution control measures there as well," she added.

The Delhi CM said constructions by the

NCRTC and RRTS have also contributed to pollution levels in the area and added the government is utilising all available resources, including 99 teams for dust control and over 315 smog guns, to mitigate the issue.

"Smog guns are operating constantly in this area, and the roads are being kept wet to con-

trol dust. All roads have been repaired, and congestion points have been cleared to ease traffic flow," Atishi said.

Atishi also addressed the issue of pollution in the Yamuna, accusing the Haryana and UP governments of releasing untreated effluent into the river.

"During the Chhath festival, they shut their Agra Canal, diverting their untreated waste towards Delhi.

However, we remain solution-oriented. That is why we are using food-based silicone defoamers, and the Delhi Jal Board is conducting a defoaming drive to tackle the problem. Even if others try to disrupt our efforts, we will continue working towards a cleaner Yamuna," she said.

Environment Minister

Gopal Rai pointed out that air quality fluctuates significantly late at night and early in the morning, coinciding with the arrival and departure of buses.

"The AQI is especially bad at these times, and the major reason appears to be the presence of two depots—one at Anand Vihar in Delhi and the other at Kaushambi in UP. While buses in Delhi are now running on CNG and electric, a large number of diesel buses from UP still operate at these depots. The smoke from these buses is impacting the air quality," he said.

Rai urged the UP government to adopt similar pollution control measures, saying a coordinated approach is required to yield positive results.

## Protests in Bihar's Bhagalpur after idols found vandalised in temple

BIHAR, Oct 20 (Agencies): People staged protests in Bihar's Bhagalpur district on Sunday after idols in a temple were found vandalised, police said.

One person has been arrested in connection with the incident in the Sanhaura police station area. Security forces staged a

flag march in the area as people staged protests and burnt tyres on the roads.

"The incident took place at a temple near a pond in the Sanhaura police station area last night where idols of different deities were vandalised by some unidentified persons. The matter was brought to the notice

of the local police station," a statement issued by the district police on Sunday said.

It also said that a case had been registered and police arrested a suspect in connection with the incident.

A large number of people gathered outside Sanhaura police station in the morning to

protest the incident. Locals also blocked roads and burnt tyres to vent their anger.

"The situation is completely under control and a flag march was staged by the security personnel in the locality. We request people not to pay attention to rumours," the statement added.

## SC to hear case on death of three civil service aspirants at Delhi coaching centre on Oct 21

NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (Agencies): The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a matter related to the death of three civil service aspirants at a coaching centre here in July due to the flooding in the building's basement.

On July 27, three civil services aspirants drowned in the basement library of Rau's IAS Study Circle in the Old Rajinder Nagar area here after it was flooded following heavy rain.

As per the cause list of October 21 uploaded on the apex court's website, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan is slated to hear the matter.

On September 20, the top court directed a Union government-appointed committee probing the case to submit an interim report about the measures it wanted to be taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

The apex court had also asked the Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi governments to apprise it of the policy and legislative and administrative changes made to prevent a repeat of such incidents.

It had said uniform initiatives should be taken in the entire National Capital Region (NCR) to prevent another Old Rajinder Nagar-type incident from happening.

Attorney General R Venkataramani had submitted that the Centre has constituted a high-level committee to look into the incident. The top court had said the panel can consider intervention at legislative, policy, and administrative levels and can elicit the views of all stakeholders before making its recommendations.

The apex court had also said it would be covering the "wider canvas" and would examine the issue at pan-India level to ensure that such incidents were not repeated elsewhere.

On August 5, the top court had observed that coaching centres have become "death chambers" and were playing with the lives of students.

It had taken cognisance of the matter while hearing a petition filed by an association of coaching centres challenging a December 2023 Delhi High Court order which directed the city's fire services and the civic body to inspect all coaching centres here to ascertain if they were complying with fire safety norms.

The high court had transferred the probe into the deaths of the three students from Delhi Police to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) "to ensure the public has no doubt over the investigation."

The three UPSC aspirants who drowned were Shreya Yadav (25) of Uttar Pradesh, Tanya Soni (25) of Telangana and Nevin Delvin (24) of Kerala.

## Assam: Around 200 people fall ill due to food poisoning after consuming snacks

GOLAGHAT, Oct 20 (Agencies): Around 200 people have fallen ill due to food poisoning after consuming snacks during an obituary function of a deceased in Assam's Golaghat district, officials said on Sunday.

The incident took place on Saturday night during a gathering at the memorial ceremony of the mother of Pradip Gogoi at Pasghoria village of Uriamghat in the Sarupathar area.

According to an official, the guests were served with traditional 'jalpan' (snacks with

puffed rice and cream) during the function.

"The people then complained of stomach ache, headache, vomiting and loose motion.

A total of 53 people were immediately admitted at the Community Health Centre in Sarupathar town and Public Health Centre in Uriamghat," the official said.

Out of them, two were sent to Jorhat Medical College and Hospital for advanced treatment, he added.

"The condition of the victims is stated to be stable and many are



being released after treatment," the official said.

The remaining around 150 people, who have shown minor symptoms, are at their respective homes and their health conditions are being

monitored, he added. Sarupathar's BJP MLA Biswajit Phukan visited the hospital and enquired about the health condition of the people.

"The district administration informed me

that the food inspector will visit the village and investigate the cause of the food poisoning," he added.

Phukan said a medical camp has been set up in the village and health checkup is being carried out for the villagers.

"We have also sent medical teams to the individual houses of all the people, who had come to the function.

The team is closely monitoring the health conditions. None of the people are showing any serious symptoms," he added.



## 'American values': Obama calls Kamala Harris 'most prepared nominee ever'

*'Donald Trump sees power as nothing more than a means to meet his ends', says the former US President*

NEVADA, Oct 20 (Agencies): Former US President Barack Obama at a campaign event in Las Vegas endorsed Vice President and Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris and emphasised her preparedness for the presidency.

He praised Harris as a "champion for those in need, steadfastly committed to the values that have shaped America." Obama also said that Americans have an opportunity to shape the country's future by choosing a new generation of leaders, which will help in building a better, stronger, fairer, and more equal America.

Addressing the rally, Obama said, "America is ready to turn the page... We are ready for President Kamala Harris. And the good news is that Kamala Harris is ready for the job. This is a leader who has spent her entire life fighting on behalf of people who need a champion, somebody who believes in the values that built this country and she is as prepared for the job as any nominee for the president has ever been. In the White House, she will have an outstanding partner, Governor Tim Waltz." He added, "Here in Nevada, voting has already started. You can vote early by mail or you can vote in person... Help your friends and family make a plan vote because together, we have a chance to choose a new gener-



ation of leadership in this country and start building a better, stronger, fair, more equal, more hopeful America." The former president further noted that America has been grappling with issues like pandemic leading to a surge in prices and impacting families.

"We know this election is going to be tight and it's going to be tight because a lot of Americans are still struggling. As a country, we have been through a lot over these last few years. We had a pandemic that wreaked havoc on businesses and communities and then the disruptions from the pandemic caused price rises and that put a strain on family budgets... So I get why people are looking to shake things up. It's understandable; I understand it. What I cannot understand is why anybody would think that Donald Trump will shake things up in a way that is good for people because there is absolutely no evidence that

this man thinks about anybody but himself," Obama said.

Stepping up his criticism of Harris' rival and Republican presidential candidate, Obama further said, "I have said it before and I am gonna say it again, Donald Trump is a 78-year-old billionaire who has not stopped whining about his problem since he rode down that golden escalator nine years ago. He is constantly complaining, and when he is not complaining, he is trying to sell you stuff... He is trying to sell you a Trump Bible..." Obama added, "And I will give you one guess where those bibles are made -- in China. This is Mr. Tough Guy on China except when he can make a few bucks... And the reason he is doing it is because all he cares about is his ego, money and his status. He is not thinking about you. He sees power as nothing more than a means to meet his ends. He wants the middle class to pay

the price for another huge tax cut, to help mostly him and his country club buddies." Obama emphasised that Trump's strategy is to make Americans believe the country is deeply divided, pitting "us against them" and "real Americans" who support him against those who don't.

"Most of all, Donald Trump wants you to think that this country is hopelessly divided between us and them and between real Americans who obviously support him and anybody who doesn't because having people divided, angry, resentful and full of grievance, boosts his chances of being elected and that's why he does it, Obama said.

Notably, Vice President Kamala Harris is the first woman, first Black, and first Asian American Vice President. If elected president, the 59-year-old would become the first woman in history to become the US president.

She is up against former President Donald Trump, who is eyeing a historic return to the White House after a bitter exit in 2020. If he wins, it would be the first time in over 100 years in US history that a president would serve two non-consecutive presidential terms.

The US presidential polls are scheduled to be held on November 5.

## Israel strikes Beirut in response to Hezbollah drone attack on Netanyahu's residence

JERUSALEM, Oct 20 (Agencies): Two Israeli air strikes targeted south Beirut on Sunday after the Israeli army warned civilians to evacuate the stronghold of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, state media said.

The reported strikes came after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused the Iran-backed Hezbollah movement of trying to assassinate him by attacking his residence.

"Enemy (Israeli) airplanes carried out two strikes this morning on Beirut's southern suburbs, one of them hitting a residential building in Haret Hreik" near a mosque and a hospital, the National News Agency reported.

The Israeli military had earlier issued an "urgent warning" for civilians living near buildings it said were affiliated with Hezbollah in the neighbourhood to immediately evacuate.

"You are located near facilities and interests affiliated with Hezbollah, which the IDF (Israeli army) will work against in the near future," the military's Arabic spokesman Avichay Adraee said on Telegram.

"For your safety and the safety of your family

members, you must evacuate the building and those adjacent to it immediately and move away from it for a distance of no less than 500 metres."

Similar warnings have preceded Israeli air strikes in recent weeks after Israel stepped up its campaign against Iran-backed Hezbollah, which has a stronghold in the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital.

Israel army says hit Hezbollah 'command centre' in Beirut

The Israeli military said it carried out a strike Sunday on a Hezbollah command centre and underground weapons facility in the Lebanese capital Beirut.

The Israeli military said it also killed three Hezbollah militants in other strikes in southern Lebanon where it says its troops are engaged in targeted raids.

Netanyahu's office on Saturday said a drone was launched towards his residence in the central town of Caesarea, but he and his wife were not home and there were no injuries.

"The attempt by Iran's proxy Hezbollah to assassinate me and my wife today was a grave mistake," Netanyahu said in a statement.

"Anyone who tries to

harm Israel's citizens will pay a heavy price," he said in comments directed at Tehran and "its proxies," which include Lebanon's Hezbollah, a group Israel has been at war with since late September.

Iran said Hezbollah, which it arms and finances, was behind the attack on Netanyahu's residence.

"This action was taken by the Lebanese Hezbollah," Iran's mission to the United Nations said in response to a question about its role in the attack, according to Iran's official news agency.

Hezbollah has not claimed the attack.

Israel has vowed to retaliate against Iran, its regional arch foe, for an October 1 missile barrage. Iran has warned it will hit back.

Israel and Hezbollah had been trading near-daily fire across the Lebanese border since the outbreak of the war in Gaza last year.

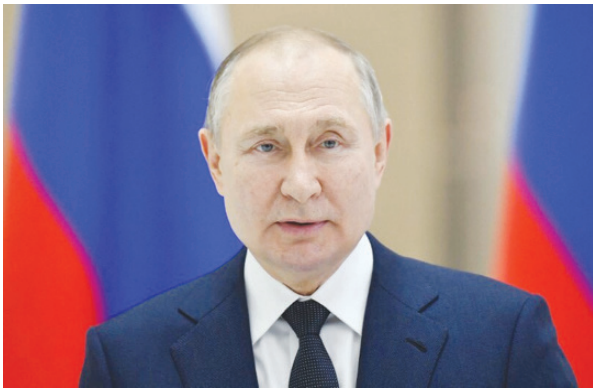
But Israel sharply escalated its campaign late last month, launching devastating air strikes and deploying ground forces.

Since late September, the war has killed at least 1,454 people in Lebanon, according to an agency tally of Lebanese health ministry figures.

## Working with India to explore digital currencies, says Putin

MOSCOW, Oct 20 (Agencies): Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the multi-nation BRICS group should explore a SWIFT-like cross-border payments system immune to Western sanctions as well as use national digital currencies in financing investment projects to end US dollar dominance.

Ahead of the 16th annual summit of leaders of BRICS to be hosted by Russia, Putin also said the time has not come yet for a common BRICS currency but added that the 10-nation bloc is exploring the use of digital currencies, for which his country is working with India and other nations.



Russia, which was slapped with sweeping sanctions by the US and its allies in the aftermath of the conflict with Ukraine, wants to circumvent the global financial system by creating a new payments system based on a network of commercial banks linked to each other through the

BRICS central banks.

Putin said BRICS member states should focus on the use of national currencies, new financial instruments and the creation of an analogue of SWIFT. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to attend the summit in the Tatarstan city of Kazan on October 22 and 23.

## Children greet King Charles III and Queen Camilla outside a Sydney church

SYDNEY, Oct 20 (Agencies): King Charles III and Queen Camilla were greeted by children Sunday outside a Sydney church in their first public appearance of their Australian visit.

Charles' arrival Friday marked the first reigning British monarch visit to Australia since his late mother Queen Elizabeth II made her 16th journey to the distant nation in 2011.

Charles, 75, is being treated for cancer, which has led to a scaled-down itinerary.

The couple spent a rest day on Saturday at Admiralty House, the official Sydney residence of the monarch's representative in Australia, Governor-Gener-



al Sam Mostyn.

The royals' first public engagement was at a service at St. Thomas' Anglican Church in North Sydney. As Charles and Camilla made their way to the front of church, Sunday school children waving Australian flags cheered and shook hands with the couple. Inside, dozens of phones pointed in their direction, while excited whis-

pers echoed through the room. After the service, the king and queen were greeted outside by hundreds of cheering people hoping to catch a glimpse or snap a photo.

Sunday's service was restricted to the local congregation, with only a few special guests allowed to attend, such as Mostyn and New South Wales state Governor Margaret Beazley. A small group of pro-

testers demonstrated nearby under a banner that read, "Empire Built on Genocide."

The couple later attended the New South Wales state Parliament to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Australia's first legislature.

Charles gifted Parliament an hourglass, which is traditionally used to limit the duration of lawmakers' speeches.

"So with the sands of time encouraging brevity, it just remains for me to say what a great joy it is to come to Australia for the first time as sovereign and to renew a love of this country and its people which I have cherished for so long,"

Charles said.

It is Charles' 17th trip to Australia and the first since he became king in 2022.

The couple will attend a reception in the national capital, Canberra, on Monday. All government leaders of Australia's six states have declined invitations to attend, which monarchists have interpreted as a snub. The non-attendants are all republicans who would prefer an Australian citizen as the nation's head of state, rather than Britain's monarch.

On Wednesday, Charles will travel to Samoa, where he will open the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

## Ex-general Prabowo Subianto takes office as Indonesia President

*He will also inherit Southeast Asia's largest economy and the world's largest nickel reserves, taking lead of a country of 280 million where about half are below the age of 30.*

JAKARTA, Oct 20 (Agencies): Former general Prabowo Subianto was sworn in Sunday as president of Indonesia, seeking a more prominent position on the global stage for the world's fourth most populous nation.

The 73-year-old fiery nationalist -- accused of rights abuses during his time in the military -- took the oath at parliament to officially succeed outgoing leader Joko Widodo.

"I swear that I will fulfil the duties of the president of the Republic of Indonesia as best as possible and as fair as possible," he said.

Prabowo has committed himself to Indonesia's non-aligned foreign policy, but has signalled that he will be bolder on the world

stage.

He made China his first foreign visit after his election eight months ago, before embarking on trips to a dozen other countries including Russia, Saudi Arabia and Australia, where he signed a key security deal.

He will also inherit Southeast Asia's largest economy and the world's largest nickel reserves, taking lead of a country of 280 million where about half are below the age of 30.

Prabowo won by a landslide in the first round of the February vote, helped by the support of his running mate Gibran Rakabuming Raka, the 37-year-old son of Widodo, and bold campaign pledges including a \$28 billion free meal plan for chil-

dren.

The former defence minister, dressed in traditional attire, gave a bombastic speech to lawmakers who applauded him and chanted his name.

"We will lead the Indonesian government... by prioritising the interests of all Indonesian people including those who did not vote for us," he said.

He spoke about presiding over a "peaceful democracy", sticking to a "good neighbour" policy and said there was still too much corruption "at all levels", before ending his speech with shouts of "freedom!".

Prabowo was to then parade between parliament and the palace for a handover ceremony with Widodo, more popularly known as Jokowi,



a former rival to whom he lost two election races in 2014 and 2019.

Several dozen diplomats attended his inauguration, including British foreign minister David Lammy and Chinese Vice President Han Zheng.

Disappearances Security was heightened across the capital Jakarta ahead of the inauguration, with around 100,000 police

and army personnel deployed.

Tens of thousands lined the streets of Jakarta as Prabowo became Indonesia's eighth leader since the country achieved independence from Dutch colonial rule in 1945.

While supporters hailed his ascent to the presidency, critics have pointed to a chequered past.

NGOs and his former

military bosses accuse Prabowo of ordering the abduction of democracy activists at the end of dictator Suharto's rule in the late 1990s.

According to the Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence, or Kontras, 23 activists were kidnapped between 1997 and 1998.

Nine were found alive, one was found dead and 13 are still missing.

Prabowo was discharged from the military over the abductions, but denied the allegations and was never charged.

The United States once refused to give Prabowo a visa because of his rights record, and he was also reportedly included on a blacklist in Australia for a while.

Prabowo has also been accused of involvement in military crimes in East Timor when it was under Indonesian occupation.

"Concerns remain about what Prabowo's ascension may mean for democracy and human rights," said Parker Novak, nonresident fellow at the Atlantic Council.

Grandfatherly A new image won over younger voters in the last election, with Prabowo remodelling himself as a grandfatherly figure.

He shared images of his cats to his six million Instagram followers, while videos of him dancing went viral and painted him as the everyman candidate.

The decision to recruit Gibran as his running

mate also proved popular, but courted controversy after rules were changed to lower the age for candidates.

Gibran's popularity is tied to his father, who took Indonesia out of the Covid-19 pandemic relatively unscathed and back to five percent growth.

The outgoing president's successor has set an even higher target of eight percent growth.

But experts say a bigger challenge lies ahead for Prabowo on the world stage.

"He will have to navigate inevitable tension between his country's extensive economic relationship with China and growing security relationships with the United States and Australia," said Novak.



# JU defeats S.B.P. University Pune by 21 Runs in All India VC Cup 2024

## Top News Report

CHANDIGARH/JAMMU, Oct 20: In an exciting match of the All India VC Cup 2024, University of Jammu triumphed over S.B.P. University Pune by 21 runs. The tournament is being hosted by Panjab University, Chandigarh. University of Jammu won the toss and chose to bat first. They set a strong total of 201 runs in their 20 overs, losing 7 wickets. Shantul Raina led the charge with a quickfire 50 off 28 balls, followed by Shami Kumar's 46 off 35 balls. Niranjana contributed 33 in 21 balls, with other



useful scores from Rajesh (15), Raj Kumar (12), and Suheel (16). In response, S.B.P. University Pune gave a

tough fight, but managed to score only 185 runs in their 20 overs, falling short by 21 runs. Vinod top-scored for Pune with

51 not out from 35 balls, supported by Nitin's 45 off 28 balls and Manish's 43 from 28 balls. For University of Jammu,

Raj Kumar Bakshi was the standout bowler, taking 2 wickets for 32 runs. Balwant, Shami, and Rajesh chipped in with 1 wicket each.

Shami Kumar was named Man of the Match for his all-round performance.

The Director of Sports and Physical Education at University of Jammu, Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, congratulated the team on their win. The team's manager, Mr. Parshotam Lal, and assistant manager, Mr. Mohit, also extended their congratulations to the players for their outstanding performance

# Taha Film International Holds Massive Audition in Srinagar's Tagore hall for 'Rashtriya Rifles Story'

## Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 20: Taha Film International held auditions for the dream project Rashtriya Rifles Story at Tagore Hall, Srinagar, in which about 500 young boys and girls from the Kashmir valley were auditioned by producer Sohail Syed Lone, Neeraj Sahi, script writer Manzoor Ahmed, Line producer AP Rihaan Qadri and Raja Nisar were also present. Film director Neeraj Sahi said that the purpose of Rashtriya Rifles film shooting in Kashmir after the 90s is that the work done by the RR under Sudhbhavna in every corner of Kashmir is commendable. Because the Rashtriya Rifles has



provided various facilities to the people of Kashmir and especially the youth here. He said that the army has also ended militancy to some extent and established peace in Kashmir. While the producer of the film, Sohail Syed Lone said that the purpose of shooting the Rashtriya Rifles film is to show the ground situation from each region of Kashmir, how much work the Rashtriya Rifles has

done in Kashmir under Sadhbhavna. Sohail said that Kashmiri children are being officially auditioned for this film so that more and more Kashmiri children get the opportunity to work in this film. Scriptwriter Manzoor Ahmed said that the purpose of making Rashtriya Rifles film is to show the outstanding performance of the Rashtriya Rifles in various fields in Kashmir after the 90s.

# Centre must restore Statehood to J&K as promised: Rattan Lal Gupta

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 20: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), has called upon the Centre to fulfill its promise of restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that the aspirations of the people must be respected, and the government should act in line with the sentiments prevailing across the region. In a statement issued here today, the senior NC leader reminded that the resolution to restore statehood was adopted in the first Cabinet meeting of the Omar Abdullah-led government, reflecting the enduring commitment of JKNC to protect the dignity and rights of the people. He highlighted that even the Lieutenant Governor of J&K has cleared the same resolution passed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's cabinet urging the Centre to restore the statehood of the Union Territory. "The BJP government's decision to bifurcate



the erstwhile princely state of J&K into two Union Territories was an unprecedented move that disregarded the historical, cultural, and political uniqueness of the region," he stated. "On August 5, 2019, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah assured the Parliament that statehood would be restored to J&K. However, even after more than five years, there has been no concrete step taken in this direction." Rattan Lal Gupta pointed out that since the abrogation of Article 370, two major elections — the Lok Sabha elections and Assembly elections — have been conducted in J&K, but the promise of statehood remains unfulfilled. "It is imperative that the Centre moves

beyond assurances and takes concrete steps to restore the statehood of J&K, as this is not just a political issue but a matter that touches the hearts and emotions of the people," he said.

Rattan Lal Gupta urged the Centre to treat the restoration of statehood as a priority. He stated, "This is an appropriate time to restore statehood to J&K. It is not just about governance; it is about restoring the pride and dignity of the people who have been consistently demanding their rightful status. The Centre must honor the commitments it made on the floor of the Parliament."

The Provincial President further emphasized that restoring statehood would help address the issues of political alienation and economic stagnation, paving the way for peace, progress, and prosperity in the region. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve a dignified political status, and it is the responsibility of the government to fulfill the promises it made," he added.

# Two FIRs registered after scuffle between groups over bovine 'smuggling' in Jammu

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 20: Two FIRs have been registered after a scuffle between rival groups over alleged bovine smuggling here, police said on Sunday and urged communities to rely on verified information instead of rumours on social media.

A minor clash was reported when some cow vigilantes allegedly inter-

cepted bovine smugglers belonging to another community at Sohanjana village in the outskirts of Jammu during the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday, officials said.

A group of people supporting cow vigilantes staged a demonstration on Sunday and threatened to intensify their agitation if stern action was not taken against the "smugglers".

# 'Strong vibrations, chemical-like smell': Locals of Delhi's Paschim Vihar in panic after blast

NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (Agencies): Residents of Delhi's Rohini area woke up to the sound of a loud blast on Sunday morning. Its vibrations were felt in faraway houses, hundreds of metres away, they said.

Locals said there was a "chemical-like" smell at the site and thick white

smoke everywhere as panic gripped the Paschim Vihar area after the blast happened near a CRPF school.

"It wasn't like a fire-cracker, the sound was incredibly loud. And for 15-20 minutes, there was just smoke everywhere," said Kiran Sachdeva, a resident of the locality.

# Breast Cancer Awareness Month Max Hospital turns Sukhna in pink



## Top News Report

MOHALI, Oct 2024: In a powerful show of support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Mohali has turned Sukhna Lake pink, using LED lights to raise awareness about Breast Cancer. This initiative is part of the hospital's ongoing efforts to highlight the importance of early detection and treatment, while honouring survivors and those impacted by the disease.

The iconic place was illuminated in pink covering the entire area including the jogger's park as well.

The transformation of the lake will be on display until October end from 6 pm to 6 am. The striking pink colour serves as a reminder of the importance of regular breast cancer screenings and self-examinations, which are the key elements in early diagnosis and effective treatment.

Dr. Pinak Moudgil, Executive Vice President, Max Super Spe-

ciality Hospital Mohali, commented, "Breast cancer touches the lives of many, and at Max Hospital, Bathinda we are committed to educating the community about the importance of early detection. This symbolic transformation of Sukhna Lake into a sea of pink reflects our solidarity with those battling breast cancer. Furthermore, we hope to spark a conversation, to engage the community and offer support to those affected by breast cancer."

## FROM PAGE 1

# Record Tourists' arrival stands as a testimony to peace, progress and prosperity in J&K: LG Sinha

Minister Narendra Modi for absolute transformation of J&K, which has made hosting of such international events possible.

"Hon'ble Prime Minister's decisive leadership and restoration of peace and normalcy in J&K has ensured people can enjoy international cricket matches, Formula-4 race and feel proud by hosting global event like G20 Summit and International Yoga Day," the Lt Governor said.

He said the record tourists' arrival in the last few years stands as a testimony to the peace, progress and prosperity in J&K.

The Lt Governor also announced that very soon Jammu Marathon will be organized on similar scale as Kashmir Marathon.

With its ideal climate, rich cultural heritage, warm hospitality, and scenic beauty, J&K is emerging as a preferred destination for international sporting events. The signature running events at Srinagar and Jammu in future, will bring together runners from across the globe and encourage tourism, he further added.

Speaking on the occasion, Bollywood actor Sh Suniel Shetty said: "I feel blessed to have got the opportunity to be a part of this historic day. With the kind of hospitality and scenic beauty J&K have, I am confident that in the coming days, it will become the number one global spot for international events like Marathons. Efforts will surely be made to bring more films to Jammu Kashmir".

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Yasha Mudgal, Commissioner Secretary, Tourism Department; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; senior officials, prominent citizens, sportspersons and youth in large number were present during the felicitation ceremony.

CM Omar Abdullah,

# Actor Suniel Shetty flags off Kashmir's first International Marathon

marathon run, which was flagged off on Sunday morning from the Polo Ground Stadium Srinagar.

As many as 59 International Athletes are among the 2000 participating in the 42 km full marathon and 21 km half marathon. More than 30 Kashmiri athletes are also participating in the event as well.

The race will start from Polo View and will continue along the iconic Boulevard and Foreshore Road, passing the stunning Dal Lake en route to Hazratbal.

The event has been organised by the Department of Tourism with the aim to show the world that the situation has improved in the valley.

"To organise the marathon is to send a message across the globe that Kashmir is a peaceful fit to host international events," Director Tourism said.

Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty said on the occasion that "the people want to come to Kashmir, and an event like this gives a message to the entire world that the people from all over the world are coming here to participate, and it's a big thing."

He said Kashmir is a paradise for the world, and I will come here again and again.

The first prize for the full marathon is Rs 25,00,000, followed by Rs 20,00,000 for second place, Rs 18,00,000 for third, Rs 15,00,000 for fourth, and Rs 12,00,000 for the fifth position. Similarly, in the half marathon, the first-place winner will receive Rs 15,00,000, with Rs 12,00,000 for second, Rs 9,00,000 for third, Rs 6,00,000 for fourth, and Rs 3,00,000 for fifth.

To ensure the event runs smoothly, traffic police have issued an advisory, stating that traffic movement on various city routes will be suspended from 5 AM to 5 PM on the day of the marathon.

# Pakistan's ISI, terror groups attempt to exploit online

# platforms for recruitment efforts in J&K

executed in 1966, advocated for active jihad against both secular governments and Western influence.

Historically, terror sympathisers relied on direct contact to recruit individuals but as security agencies have intensified their efforts to dismantle such networks, their methods have evolved, the officials said.

New recruits undergo virtual training via accessible online resources, including YouTube, before being assigned operational tasks within the region.

Officials have highlighted a marked increase in recruitment and indoctrination activities via social media, particularly in South Kashmir.

To counteract these threats, security agencies have established social media monitoring units that track potential recruits and neutralise threats in real time.

The proliferation of the internet has made social media an attractive tool for communication and information sharing, which in turn facilitates terrorist organisations in expanding their networks, the officials said.

Some individuals posing as extreme nationalists have been identified as having affiliations with radical groups, including the banned Jamaat-e-Islami, they said.

Moreover, terrorists are increasingly leveraging encrypted messaging platforms and apps such as Telegram and Mastodon, which are already banned in certain districts like Rajouri and Poonch, for covert communication and operational coordination, they said. The United Nations has repeatedly underscored the effectiveness of terrorist groups in leveraging propaganda for various nefarious purposes, including recruitment and incitement to violence.

In response to these challenges, the UN Security Council had adopted the resolution 2354 of 2017 — 'Comprehensive International Framework' — which advocates for legal and law enforcement measures, public-private partnerships and the development of counter-narratives.

The resolution outlines key guidelines

emphasising the importance of aligning counter-terrorism efforts with the United Nations Charter, acknowledging the primary responsibility of member states in combating terrorism, promoting coordination among relevant entities, tailoring counter-narratives to specific contexts, and ensuring compliance with international laws and human rights obligations.

In a bid to combat the spread of terrorist ideologies, the UNSC's Counter-Terrorism Committee has been tasked with identifying and compiling successful practices in countering terrorist narratives in collaboration with relevant non-United Nations entities.

During a debate on 'Countering the Narratives and Ideologies of Terrorism,' former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Syed Akbaruddin had highlighted the misuse of social media platforms by terrorist groups, emphasising the critical need for vigilant monitoring while safeguarding freedom of expression.

He had warned against the insidious influence of terrorism, likening it to a Hydra-like monster spreading its tentacles through targeted propaganda disseminated on the expansive social media networks intended to foster global connectivity.

As the situation evolves, authorities remain vigilant in their efforts to combat this new wave of digital recruitment and indoctrination, the officials said.

# Senior Police Officer Reviews Operational Preparedness of Force in Poonch

police-public relationship, highlighting that the force must act as a bridge between the community and the law.

After the deliberations, the ADGP conducted a "darbar" (meeting) with the SOG personnel deployed in Poonch and lauded their efforts in tackling terrorism and maintaining peace in the region.

He urged the personnel to remain steadfast in their commitment to the region's security, the police spokesperson said.

Later, the ADGP visited the SOG camp in Poonch, where he inspected the facilities and interacted with the officers and personnel stationed there.

He assessed the operational readiness of the camp and reviewed the ongoing operations.

He expressed satisfaction with the preparedness and encouraged the personnel to continue their efforts in ensuring peace and stability in the district, the police spokesperson said.

The ADGP also inspected the Poonch police station to review its functioning and infrastructure.

He took stock of the crime records, security arrangements and overall work environment at the police station.

He also interacted with the staff and lauded their dedication and efforts in maintaining law and order in the district.

# High Court slams Illegal High Court Bar Association Srinagar's PIL, Cites 'No Legal Legs to Stand On'

representation to the concerned authorities or provide notice of the PIL before its filing.

Advocate General D.C. Raina emphasized that the unregistered status of the J&K High Court Bar Association, Srinagar, rendered it an illegal entity with no legal standing to file such a petition. Without proper recognition or registration, the association had no locus standi to file writ petition in courts.

Given the association's lack of legal recognition, the court dismissed the PIL as non-maintainable.

# Army foils infiltration bid along LoC in Baramulla

recovered yet due to difficult terrain, they said.

The operation was in progress when the last reports were received.



## India to impose laptop import restrictions to boost local manufacturing: Report

*The planned restrictions, if enforced, could impact the country's IT hardware market, which is currently valued at between \$8 billion and \$10 billion.*

NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (Agencies): India is planning to impose restrictions on the import of laptops, tablets, and personal computers starting next year, reported news agency. This move is aimed at encouraging companies like Apple to increase their manufacturing efforts within India, as part of the government's broader push to promote local production.

The planned restrictions, if enforced, could impact the country's IT hardware market, which is currently valued at between \$8 billion and \$10 billion. India's market for laptops and other devices is heavily reliant on imports, with around two-thirds of demand being met through foreign products, primarily from China.

India had previously considered imposing similar restrictions on imports but withdrew the plan last year after facing opposition from companies and lobbying efforts from countries like the United States. Since then, the government has been monitoring imports through a temporary system that is due to expire at the end of this year. Companies will be required to seek new approvals for imports starting in 2024.

"The industry has had enough time to adjust," one of the officials was quoted in the report, indicating that the government believes now is the right time to move ahead with the restrictions.

However, the official added that India plans to hold con-



sultations with all stakeholders, including industry leaders, starting next week. While the government is keen to implement the restrictions soon, it may delay the rollout by a few months if necessary.

India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is working on a new import authorisation system that will require companies to obtain prior approval before importing devices like laptops and tablets. Under the current system, companies can import devices freely after completing a simple online registration process.

India's IT hardware market is dominated by major players like HP, Dell, Apple, Lenovo, and Samsung. With most of the demand being met by imports, India's domestic production of laptops only accounts for Rs 5 billion of the Rs 20 billion total market size, according to consultancy firm Mordor Intelligence.

One of the ways the government plans to manage the import restrictions is by introduc-

ing minimum quality standards for laptops, notebooks, and tablets. This is part of India's 'compulsory registration order,' which aims to prevent low-quality products from entering the market.

"We are looking at these restrictions because global trade agreements prevent us from taking tariff action on imports of laptops and tablets. Therefore, limiting imports through policy changes is one of the few options left," said the second government official.

India's electronics ministry has not yet provided an official response on the matter, and the trade ministry has stated that it will work closely with the electronics ministry and other stakeholders before making a final decision.

**BOOST TO LOCAL MANUFACTURING**

The import restrictions are expected to benefit local contract manufacturers like Dixon Technologies, which already has agreements with global companies such as HP to pro-

duce laptops and computers in India. Dixon Technologies is aiming to meet 15% of India's overall demand for laptops and other IT hardware.

However, some in the industry have suggested that any import restrictions should be aligned with India's domestic production capacity. India's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for IT hardware has already attracted global players like Acer, Dell, HP, and Lenovo, with many of these companies ready to ramp up local production.

The PLI scheme offers federal subsidies worth nearly Rs 2.01 billion to boost domestic manufacturing. In recent years, companies like Lenovo and Acer have increased local assembly for entry-level laptops, leading to a 4% drop in fully assembled laptop imports during the first five months of 2024, compared to the previous year.

India's push to reduce reliance on imports is also motivated by concerns about cybersecurity and data privacy. The government has emphasised the need for "trusted sources" for electronic devices and communication technology, given the increasing risk of cyberattacks and data theft.

In line with this, India plans to implement mandatory testing for key security features in electronic devices, including CCTV cameras. This new requirement will come into effect in April 2025 and is part of India's broader strategy to ensure the security of its digital infrastructure.

## Pallonji Group's Afcons Rs 5,430-cr IPO opens on October 25



MUMBAI, Oct 20 (Agencies): The Shapoorji Pallonji group's engineering arm Afcons Infrastructure has filed the red herring prospectus with the Registrar of Companies to raise Rs 5,430 crore via an initial public offering which is opening on October 25.

In the DRHP, the company had said it would seek to raise Rs 7,000 crore, but final filing has scaled down the issue size to Rs5,430-crore.

Afcons issue is a combination of fresh issue worth Rs 1,250 crore and an offer-for-sale worth Rs 4,180 crore by the promoter entity Goswami Infratech.

The other promoter groups are the parent Shapoorji Pallonji & Company, Floreat Investments, Hermes Commerce, and Renaissance Com-

merce, which together own 99 percent in Afcons and the remaining 1 percent is held by public shareholders.

Issuer will announce the price band for the issue next week.

In the pre-IPO round last week, Goswami Infratech has transferred more than 6.25 crore equity shares to several marquee global and domestic investors, including Discovery Global Opportunity (Mauritius), Volrado Venture Partners Fund, Blue Lotus Investment Fund, Cohesion MK Best Ideas Sub-Trust, Gannat, Prudential Assurance Company, Quant Mutual Fund, SBI General Insurance, Synergy Solutions Investments Holding, TIMF Holdings, Ashoka India Equity Investment Trust, NuVama Cross-over Opportunities

Fund, Artian Capital, Ananta Capital Ventures Fund, and 360 One Special Opportunities Fund, according to the filing.

After this Goswami's shareholding in Afcons has come down to 53.52 percent from 71.87 percent earlier. The engineering and construction company will use Rs 600 crore from the issue for debt repayment, Rs 320 crore for long-term working capital and Rs 80 crore to purchase construction equipment, and the rest of the fresh issue proceeds for general corporate purposes.

Since fiscal year 2013, Afcons has completed 79 projects worth Rs 56,305 crore across 17 countries. As of June 2024, it has 65 active or ongoing projects across 12 countries, valued Rs 31,747 crore.

On the financial front, the company has recorded net profit of Rs 449.7 crore for fiscal 2024, up 9.5 percent over fiscal 2023 from revenue of Rs 13,267.5 crore, which was 5 percent more than it had in fiscal 2023.

In the June 2024 quarter, net profit rose 0.7 percent to Rs 91.6 crore while revenue declined 0.5 percent to Rs 3,154.4 crore.

## Music speeds up recovery from surgery, reduces stress levels

NEW YORK, Oct 20 (Agencies): Listening to music may help patients recover from surgery through a lower heart rate, reduced anxiety levels, less opioid use and lower pain, according to researchers.

A reduction in cortisol levels when listening to music may play a role in easing patients' recovery, according to a meta-analysis presented at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress 2024 in San Francisco.

"When patients wake up after surgery, sometimes they feel really scared and don't know where they are," said Eldo Frezza, professor of surgery at California Northstate University College of Medicine.

"Music can help ease the transition from the waking up stage to a return to normalcy and may help reduce stress around that transition."

Frezza and study co-authors noted that unlike some more active therapies such as meditation or pilates which require considerable concentration or movement, listening to music is a more passive experience and can be incorporated by patients without much cost or effort almost immediately after surgery.

To reach this conclusion, the team

analysed existing studies on music and its role in helping people recover from surgery, narrowing a list of 3,736 studies to 35 research papers.

In their analysis, the researchers found that the simple act of listening to music after surgery, whether with headphones or through a speaker, had noticeable effects on patients during their recovery period.

Patients who listened to music had a statistically significant reduction in pain the day after surgery. Across all studies, patient self-reported anxiety levels were reduced by about 2.5 points, or 3 per cent.

Patients who listened to music used less than half of the amount of morphine compared to those who did not listen to music on the first day after surgery, the research noted.

They also experienced a reduced heart rate (around 4.5 fewer beats per minute) compared with patients who did not listen to music.

"Although we can't specifically say they're in less pain, the studies revealed that patients perceive they are in less pain, and we think that is just as important," said Shehzaib Raees, first author of the study.

## Cancer patients nearly 5 times more likely to experience bankruptcy: Researchers

NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (Agencies): Cancer patients are nearly five times more likely to experience bankruptcy, as financial fallout can follow patients with cancer and their families in the form of lower credit scores other monetary challenges years after a cancer diagnosis.

For patients with bladder, liver, lung, and colorectal cancers, the impact on credit scores was larger compared with other types of cancers, said researchers at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School in Boston in the US.

"These are the first studies to provide numerical evidence of financial toxicity among cancer survivors. Previous data on this topic largely relies on subjective survey reviews," said Benjamin C James, chief of general surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and associate professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School.



The first study included 99,175 people who had a cancer diagnosis from 2010 through 2019 and 188,875 non-cancer patients to serve as a control.

Researchers matched patient registry data with Experian credit bureau data to evaluate objective financial markers of financial toxicity.

Patients with cancer had higher rates in total debt collections, medical collections, and bankruptcies. Cancer patients are nearly 5 times more likely

to experience bankruptcy. The cancer patients also had average credit scores nearly 80 points lower.

The second study used a sample of 7,227 patients with colorectal cancer and identified a number of factors that correlated with lower credit scores.

The study also found that declines in credit scores are larger for people with bladder, liver, lung, and colorectal cancers, and persist for up to 9.5 years after diagnosis.

However, Dr James noted that the researchers did not directly correlate cancer prognosis with financial toxicity, but that some more aggressive cancers actually have less financial toxicity than cancers with a good prognosis.

"There are certain factors that are associated with worse financial toxicity, including being under the age of 62, identifying as Black or Hispanic, not being married, having an area deprivation index below the median, not owning a home, and having an income below a median of \$52,000 a year," Dr James noted.

The studies followed up on findings from the 2015 North American Thyroid Cancer Survivorship Study, which showed that 50 per cent of thyroid cancer survivors encountered financial toxicity due to their diagnosis.

"Further research is needed, but I think financial security should be a priority in cancer

## Gut hormone in fruit flies found to extend lifespan, result important to humans: Researchers

NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (Agencies): The gut could be key to understanding longevity, according to a study that found a gut hormone in fruit flies could control lifespan, a result important to humans as both species have many similar genes and hormones.

Researchers at Brown University in the US have found that suppressing the insulin-regulating 'neuropeptide F' hormone in the gut of fruit flies extended longevity.

The findings are important for humans too, especially as new diabetes and obesity

drugs developed from gut hormones in the same insect family are becoming widespread, the researchers said.

Understanding ageing mechanisms in flies may thus help explain what's happening in humans as well, they said.

The findings are published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Reducing insulin and targeting related processes have been found to slow ageing and extend lifespan in animals in previous studies.

In this study, the researchers manipulated gene activity in the intestines of fruit flies

such that they produced lower levels of the neuropeptide F hormone, and thereby lower levels of insulin.

The team then compared the hormone production in the gut to what was happening in the fruit flies' brains and connected all the results with the diet that the insects were consuming.

The researchers found that suppressing the gut activity of the neuropeptide F hormone extended longevity in the flies, as did blocking the activity of related proteins in their brains. These proteins control the production of 'juve-

nile' hormones, which are known to regulate physiology.

The researchers said that neuropeptide F hormone in the gut impacted ageing in flies by integrating these factors -- nutrient sensing, insulin processes and juvenile hormone production.

"Gut neuropeptide F modulates (fruit fly) ageing through the integration of nutrient sensing, insulin signalling, and juvenile hormone," the authors wrote.

"Based on (our) research, we suspect that over-production of gut neuropeptide F in flies will have a negative effect on ageing

and decrease lifespan," study author Marc Tatar, a professor of biology at Brown University.

The researchers explained that humans do not produce either of the neuropeptide F or juvenile hormones. Instead, gut hormones are involved in regulating insulin in humans.

Given how diabetes and obesity drugs, which are known to target hormones involved in controlling insulin, and the findings on the relationship between insulin and ageing in flies, it may be time to consider how the drugs could impact human ageing, the authors said.

## British man donates body, researchers discover he had 3 penises

LONDON, Oct 20 (Agencies): It would have been the most unusual situation for a British man, who donated his body to the University of Birmingham Medical School for research, has he known that he had three penises.

He died at the age of 78 years. The entire life he lived he was unaware of the fact, reports. The bizarre case came to light after the researchers conducted a dissection.

"Two small supernumerary penises stacked in a sagittal orientation posteriorly to the primary penis. Each penile shaft displayed its own corpora cavernosa and glans penis. The primary penis and largest and most superficial of the supernumerary penises shared a single urethra, which coursed through the secondary penis prior to its passage through the primary penis. A urethra-like structure was absent from the smallest supernumerary penis," researchers

said in a paper submitted to the Journal of Medical Case Reports.

"The urethra originally developed in the secondary penis, however, when this penis failed to develop, the urethra diverted its course and developed in the primary penis instead. The tertiary penis is a remnant of the triplicated genital tubercle."

Being born with multiple penises, a condition known as polyphallia, is extremely rare, affecting approximately 1 in 5 to 6 million individuals. While research has documented instances of polyphallia from 1606 to 2023, triphallia -- which essentially means 'triple penis' -- has been reported only once before.

The paper also noted that the man "may have lived with functional deficits due to the abnormal anatomy of the region, which may include urinary tract infections, erectile dysfunction, or fertility issues, as later described".



## Hockey: Harmanpreet to lead as India announce strong 22-man squad for Germany series

India will take on Germany in a two-match hockey series in New Delhi on October 23 and 24

NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (Agencies): Hockey India on Sunday named the 22-member Indian Men's Hockey team for the upcoming bilateral series against the reigning World Champions Germany in New Delhi. The Indian team go into the two-match series, to be played at Major Dhyam Chand National Stadium on October 23 and 24, following a successful outing at the Asian Champions Trophy in Hulunbuir, China where they defended the title, becoming the only Asian team to win the prestigious event five times since its inception in 2011.

For the India vs Germany Bilateral Hockey Series, which marks the return of international hockey in the national capital, the Indian team will be led by Harmanpreet Singh and Vice Captained by Vivek Sagar Prasad. The team's dynamic midfielder Hardik Singh, will miss out on the series as he continues to be in rehab for an injury sustained during the Paris Olympic Games.

The bilateral series will witness Rajinder Singh and Aditya Arjun



Lagate make their international debut.

Named in the squad are Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Suraj Karkera who will guard India's goalpost while Jarmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar, Sanjay forming the defence line. The team also includes Sumit, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Vishnu Kant Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Shamsheer Singh, Mohd Raheen Mouseen and Rajinder Singh.

Mandeep Singh, who was rested for the Asian Champions Trophy, returns to the for-

ward line. He will be joined by Sukhjeet Singh, Abhishek, Aditya Arjun Lalage, Dilpreet Singh and Shilanand Lakra.

Speaking about the team selection, Chief Coach Craig Fulton said, "We are very excited to take on Germany in the national capital next week. India and Germany have shared a strong rivalry in recent years and we are upbeat about playing in New Delhi. The team we have picked is an experienced one, with several players from the Bronze medal-winning Paris Olympics squad. We will also have Rajinder and Aditya make their international debut during

this series, they have shown a lot of promise during the training camp and we share their excitement as they prepare to earn their first jersey with the Indian team."

### INDIA SQUAD FOR GERMAN SERIES

- GOALKEEPERS**
1. Krishan Bahadur Pathak
  2. Suraj Karkera
- DEFENDERS**
3. Jarmanpreet Singh
  4. Amit Rohidas
  5. Harmanpreet Singh (C)
  6. Varun Kumar
  7. Sanjay
  8. Sumit
  9. Nilam Sanjeev Xess
- MIDFIELDERS**
10. Manpreet Singh
  11. Vivek Sagar Prasad (VC)
  12. Vishnu Kant Singh
  13. Nilakanta Sharma
  14. Shamsheer Singh
  15. Mohd. Raheel Mouseen
  16. Rajinder Singh
- FORWARDS**
17. Mandeep Singh
  18. Abhishek
  19. Sukhjeet Singh
  20. Aditya Arjun Lalage
  21. Dilpreet Singh
  22. Shilananda Lakra

## Sultan of Johor Cup: India colts beat Japan 4-2 in opener



MALAYSIA, Oct 20 (Agencies): The Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team made an impressive start to their campaign here at the Sultan of Johor Cup with a stunning 4-2 win against Japan.

Goals were scored by Amir Ali (12'), Gurjot Singh (36'), Anand Sourabh Kushwaha (44') and Ankit Pal (47') in India's win while Tsubasa Tanaka (26') and Rakusei Yamanaka (57') scored for Japan.

India's opening game win was welcomed with a big smile by legendary former India goal-

keeper PR Sreejesh, who begins his new innings in hockey as Coach of the Indian Junior Men's Team.

It was a high-octane match right from the start with India Colts playing attacking hockey, looking for scoring opportunities early in the game.

They punctured the Japanese defence when Amir Ali scored a fine field goal in the 12th minute of the match. Japan bounced back from this early setback when Tsubasa Tanaka scored in the 26th minute to equalise. This equaliser

didn't dent India's spirit as they stopped Japan from taking a 2-1 lead when Neo Sato and Yuto Higuchi worked in tandem to set up a fine shot on goal, thanks to India goalie Ali Khan who was impressive in the goalpost to make a fine save.

Six minutes after the half-time break, India regained their lead when Gurjot Singh, who had made his senior international debut at the Asian Champions Trophy last month, scored a fine field goal.

He was brilliantly assisted by Mohd Konain Dad to set up this goal and put India in good momentum. Only minutes later, Dilraj Singh tactfully helped India earn a crucial PC which helped them extend their lead to a strong 3-1 in the 44th minute.

Anand Sourabh Kushwaha was on target as his explosive dragkick flew past Japan's goalie Kisho Kuroda.

## "Naseem Shah is better than Jasprit Bumrah": Pakistan fast bowler makes shocking claim

KARACHI, Oct 20 (Agencies): Pakistan cricket team fast bowler Ihsanullah grabbed the headlines following a sensational comment on India star pacer Jasprit Bumrah. The fast bowler, who has played one ODI and four T20s for Pakistan, made a massive claim that Naseem Shah is a better bowler than Bumrah. Bumrah has been one of the best bowlers in the recent past and at present, he holds the No. 1 position in the ICC Test bowler's rankings. The fast bowler has proven his mettle in all three formats and he even won the 'Player of the Tournament' award at the T20 World Cup 2024.

However, in a recent interaction, Ihsanullah was clear that his Pakistan teammate was a far better bowler in comparison.

"Agar dekha jaaye toh Jasprit Bumrah se acha bowler Naseem Shah hai (If you look at it, Naseem Shah is a better bowler than Jasprit Bumrah)."

Ihsanullah was challenged by the host as he pointed out that Bumrah's performances have been far better when compared to Naseem. However, the young fast bowler remained steadfast on his stance and said that even Naseem had a great campaign at the 2022 T20 World Cup.

"Naseem Shah bhi aise he perform kar raha tha 2022 T20 World Cup mein. Koi baat nahi, ek saal aisa aata hai koi perform karta hai ya nahi, fir bhi Naseem Shah usse acha hai (Naseem Shah also performed well in the 2022 World Cup. Sometimes players can go through a rough patch for a year, but Naseem is still better)."

Earlier, India skipper Rohit Sharma on Tuesday vindicated Jasprit Bumrah's promotion as the vice-captain for the three-Test series against New Zealand.

Bumrah's elevation to vice-captaincy for the Test series, beginning here on Wednesday, came as a bit of surprise as India did not have a deputy to Rohit in the recent series against Bangladesh.

The decision has been viewed as a precursor to Bumrah stepping in as India's skipper during the tour to Australia.

"Look, Bumrah has played a lot of cricket. I've played a lot of cricket with him. He understands the game pretty well. He's got a good head on his shoulder. When you talk to him, he understands the game," Rohit told reporters.

"Tactically, I can't say much because he has not captained much. He was captain in one Test match and a couple of T20s, I guess," he added.

## New Zealand script first-ever Test win in India since 1988 with Bengaluru victory

BENGALURU, Oct 20 (Agencies): New Zealand recorded their first Test win on Indian soil in 36 years, defeating India by eight wickets on the fifth and final day of the opening match in Bengaluru. The Kiwis, led by Tom Latham, outplayed India in all departments, bundling out the hosts for a mere 46 in the first innings and sealing a memorable win on Indian soil—their first since 1988.

Chasing a target of 107 runs on the final day, New Zealand overcame a fierce bowling effort from Jasprit Bumrah, who took 2 wickets for 29 runs in 8 overs. Will Young, remaining unbeaten on 48, and Rachin Ravindra, contributing 39 not out, built a steady partnership, adding 75 runs for the third wicket. Rachin and Young helped New Zealand reach the target in just 27.4 overs.

New Zealand's last Test victory in India dates back to 1988, a milestone achieved well before most of the current squad was born. Remarkably, when spinner Ajaz Patel, one of the key figures in New Zealand's recent Test campaigns, was just a



month old, the rest of his current teammates were not even born.

New Zealand has had only three captains who have led the team to Test victories on Indian soil. Graham Dowling first achieved this rare feat in 1969 with a win in Nagpur, breaking new ground for the Kiwis. Nearly two decades later, in 1988, John Wright was added to the list with a memorable victory in Mumbai. In 2024, Tom Latham became the latest New Zealand captain to join this elite group, guiding his team to a historic win in Bengaluru.

New Zealand captains to win

a Test in India

Graham Dowling (1969)

John Wright (1988)

Tom Latham (2024)

India, known for their fortress-like dominance at home, were outclassed as New Zealand controlled the match from the outset. Despite efforts to recover, India could not recover from their disastrous first-innings collapse, a paltry total of 46 runs, which proved decisive in their eventual defeat.

For New Zealand, this was only their third Test victory in 69 years of touring India, underlining the magnitude of the

achievement. Their last victory on Indian soil came in 1988 when the legendary Sir Richard Hadlee spearheaded the team with a match-winning 10-wicket haul at the Wankhede Stadium. Since then, India has been a fortress for visiting teams, making this victory all the more remarkable.

India set a modest target of 107, which was never likely to be enough on this pitch, but Jasprit Bumrah and the Indian bowlers made it difficult early on. Bumrah, in particular, bowled with precision, troubling the New Zealand top order. Devon Conway struggled to find his rhythm and was eventually dismissed after a labored start. However, it was Will Young who countered India's attack with a positive approach, playing confidently and steering New Zealand's chase in the right direction despite the early pressure from India's bowlers.

With momentum on their side, New Zealand will now look ahead to the second Test, which is scheduled to take place in Pune on October 24.

## Pakistan 'mentally prepared' for India's Champions Trophy 2025 refusal? Report says...

ISLAMABAD, Oct 20 (Agencies): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is mentally prepared for India's refusal to travel to the country for the Champions Trophy but it won't move the title clash of the tournament from Lahore even if the arch-rivals qualify for the final on March 9, sources said. The PCB's stance on hosting the final is up for debate when the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board members meet in Dubai from October 18 to 21. "The PCB's first choice and priority is to host entire Champions Trophy in Pakistan and they are counting on this but internally the Board is also mentally prepared to hear about the Indian government not allowing its team to play in Pakistan and India's matches being held in UAE," a PCB source said. "But the PCB has

decided even in the event of India not playing in Pakistan they want the final to be held in Lahore. Even if India qualifies for the final the PCB wants the ICC to hold the match at the Gaddafi stadium in Lahore," the source said.

The bilateral cricketing ties between India and Pakistan are frozen since the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks in which 175 people lost their lives and close to 300 suffered injuries.

The BCCI may request the ICC to hold the tournament in a hybrid model and relocate their matches to either Sri Lanka or Dubai, like the Asia Cup, last year.

Gaddafi hosted the final of the 1996 World Cup. The seating capacity at the stadium is being increased.

The source claimed that PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi and



Chief Operating Officer Salman Naseer will be submitting details of the costs the PCB is bearing to renovate and upgrade the stadiums in Karachi, Rawalpindi and Lahore for the Champions Trophy.

"They will submit the details including the highest budget of around 7 billion earmarked for renovation work at the stadium in Lahore," the source added.

He also said that Naqvi will make it clear at the ICC meeting that even if India can't come for the entire tournament to Pakistan they must play

the final in Lahore if they qualify.

"All this talk that the ICC Champions Trophy might be altogether moved to another location has also bothered the PCB and they will discuss this as Naqvi is adamant that Pakistan will host the event," he added.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) senior officials ruffled feathers in the PCB with a statement this week that moving the tournament out of Pakistan was an option available to the ICC and members.

The source said that the PCB is expecting to get some sort of viable answer from the BCCI officials at the coming meeting on the progress they have made (if any) on seeking clearance from their government to send their team to Pakistan early next year for the tournament.

PCB officials will present detailed updates on the preparations for the tournament and the progress made on construction projects.

Pakistan has been placed in Group A alongside India, Bangladesh, and New Zealand for the Champions Trophy and the PCB has proposed holding all of India's games in Lahore.

Lahore is set to host seven matches, including the final. Karachi will stage the opening match and a semi-final, while Rawalpindi will host five matches, including the other semi-final.

## Bhullar eyes record 12th Asian Tour win



BANGKOK, Oct 20 (Agencies): Gaganjeet Bhullar, who won his last title 11 months ago to the day, put himself in the perfect position to pick up his 12th Asian Tour win as he fired a bogey-free 66 at the Black Mountain Championship.

Bhullar, who had 65-66 in the previous two rounds, added a 66 to get to 19-under and two shots clear of American John Catlin (65),

whose earlier rounds were 69-65.

Catlin, the Order of Merit leader, was 17-under. Fellow American Michael Maguire was third with 68-64-68 at 16-under.

Bhullar, who trails Thai legends Thaworn Wiratchant (18) and Thongchai Jaidee (13) in terms of wins on the Asian Tour, has 11 wins and is also the top Indian.

The next best Indians

are Jyoti Randhawa and Arjun Atwal, with eight wins each.

Bhullar had a bogey in each of his opening two rounds. In the third, he birdied four times on the front nine and twice on the back nine. Overall, he has had 21 birdies against two bogeys in three rounds.

The other two Indians, Khalin Joshi (73), was T-39th at 9-under, and Karandeep Kochhar (73) was T-65 at 5-under. There is a round more left. Bhullar, 36, was dogged by a sore hip this year. He has not finished better than joint 33rd at the International Series Morocco.

After missing the last three cuts, he is currently 123rd on the Asian Tour Order of Merit. However, the rebound appears to have begun this week, and a 12th win is a real possibility.



# Alarming Diabetes Prevalence in Jammu Region: ICMR-INDIAB Study Findings

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 20: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in collaboration with the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF), has released critical data from the ICMR-India Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB) national study, which includes data for Union Territory of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. This first-of-its-kind study in the region reveals that the overall prevalence of diabetes in Jammu is 18.9%, with an alarming 26.5% in urban areas and 14.5% in rural areas. Additionally, 10.8% of the population is affected by prediabetes, emphasizing the urgent need for action against the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the region.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Honorable Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space said "The ICMR-INDIAB study is a landmark study, as it is the first representative research providing authentic epidemiological data on diabetes, prediabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and obesity across various states and union territories (UTs) of India. The data obtained through the ICMR INDIAB study



in Jammu will help to estimate the health burden due to diabetes, prediabetes and metabolic NCDs, assess the level of diabetes control among individuals with self-reported diabetes and help in shifting the focus to the prevention and control of diabetes and other NCDs in the union territory of Jammu. I congratulate ICMR for supporting this large-scale epidemiological study in the country and commend Dr. V. Mohan, the National Coordinator and Principal Investigator along with the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation and all the investigators for completing the study on schedule and making this valuable data available for public health researchers, academicians and the state/UT governments for planning preventive and control programs. I especially congratulate Prof. Rajiv Kumar Gupta, Principal Investigator (PI) for the Jammu Region and Professor & Head, Dept. of Community Medicine, Govt. Medical College (GMC), Jammu for successfully completing this project in Jammu".

The ICMR-INDIAB study is a comprehensive

national survey designed to provide reliable data on the prevalence of diabetes, hypertension, obesity, dyslipidemia, and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) at both the state and national levels. Coordinated by the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF), Chennai (National Coordinating Centre), and strongly supported by the ICMR-INDIAB Expert Group, this cross-sectional, door-to-door survey of individuals aged 20 years and above covered all 28 States, the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, and 7 Union Territories (UTs) in a phased manner, starting from 2008 to 2024. The Jammu phase surveyed 1,520 participants across urban and rural areas, providing critical insights into the region's health landscape.

Dr. V. Mohan, Chairman, Madras Diabetes Research Foundation & National Coordinator & Principal Investigator of the ICMR-INDIAB Study adds, "I am very happy to inform you that the ICMR-INDIAB study has now been completed in all the 28 States, the National Capital Terri-

tory (NCT) of Delhi, and 7 Union Territories (UTs), including the islands. The total participants screened for diabetes and other metabolic disorders in all the phases of the study are 1,21,077, which makes it one of the largest epidemiological studies on diabetes ever done in the world. The ICMR - INDIAB study which was conducted by the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, with the help of ICMR and the Department of Health Research (DHR) showed that there were 101 million people with diabetes in India. In addition, there were 136 million people with prediabetes in the country. The results of the study show that the diabetes epidemic has now spread to rural areas. This study has already resulted in several excellent publications and many more are to follow. I'm sure through this dissemination meeting, there will be awareness among the various stakeholders (public, private and NGO's) to plan and combat the growing burden of NCDs in Jammu."

Dr. Rajiv Kumar Gupta, Professor & Head, Dept. of Community Medicine,

Govt. Medical College, Jammu Region, says "The ICMR INDIAB study is the 'first of its kind' in Jammu to not only assess the burden of diabetes, and prediabetes but also to obtain information on other cardio-metabolic risk factors among 1,520 participants. The overall prevalence of diabetes in Jammu is 18.9%, while it is 26.5% in urban areas and 14.5% in rural areas. The overall prevalence of prediabetes is 10.8%, while it is 13.4% and 9.3% in the urban and rural areas, respectively. Forty percent of individuals had undiagnosed diabetes. The overall prevalence of hypertension, generalized obesity, and abdominal obesity in Jammu is 27.1%, 41.7% and 62.7% respectively."

Dr. Tanvir Kaur, Scientist 'G', Division of Non-Communicable Diseases, ICMR, New Delhi adds, "I wish to thank the present ICMR Director General and the previous DGs for supporting the ICMR-INDIAB study over the last 15 years throughout the country, making this the largest epidemiological study in the field of diabetes. So far, we have nearly 20 publications in peer-reviewed national and international journals from this study. In addition, this study also ensured the capacity building of the various field staff in the NCD screening protocols."

The findings from this study are expected to help policymakers, health professionals, and stakeholders develop targeted interventions for the prevention and management of diabetes and other NCDs in Jammu and across India.

# The Path to Spiritual Awakening: Insights from Sahib Sadguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj

Top News Report



JAMMU, Oct 20: Sahib Sadguru of Bandagi Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj while giving spiritual knowledge to the congregation through his sermons in Akhnoor Jammu today said that neither there is happiness in 6 bodies nor there is happiness in 14 buildings. Man gets birth and death due to his deeds. Mahatma Isa is saying the same thing in his speech that we all are on earth due to our sins. Sahib is also saying that we have got a body only for punishment. Everyone is suffering this punishment. Whether someone is a tapasvi or a recluse, everyone is suffering. The wise man suffers with knowledge and the foolish person suffers while crying. Therefore, the division of karma is very subtle and it is everywhere. It is in 14 worlds. But the soul has no connection with karma.

Every embodied being has to perform karma. There are two types of karma in karma too - Shubh and Shubh. And the third is Madhyaast karma. Sahib is saying one thing clearly on these karmas that both sin and virtue are shackles. Actions are done through the senses. But the soul is beyond the senses.

The soul has nothing to do with actions. This is all a game of the mind and Maya. It is a drama. Good and bad actions become natural for a human being. Feet walk. We go from one place to another through our feet. Sometimes these feet also take us towards the wrong path. We do many things with our hands. Sometimes these hands also move forward for sinful actions. Sometimes these eyes also become evil eyed. When a person sees a mother or sister, he concentrates on their body parts. These ears are also very selfish. If you are praised, they become very happy. If someone tells the truth, you get agitated. That is why these ears cause a lot of destruction. This skin always wants comfort.

What an irony that whatever a human being does, he does it for the pleasure of the body. Ultimately, it is a bad condition. This is like fire wrapped in cotton. Both types of actions are to

bind the soul. Whether the handcuffs are of gold or iron, their job is to bind. Sometimes we do some work thinking it to be auspicious, but it becomes a sin.

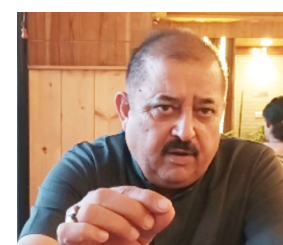
But the soul is very unique. It has no relation with karma.

I met many mahatmas from 1972 to 1977. My age is also less. Those people are focused on going to the inner world. I asked them which way do you go to the inner world. We get a sense of the outside world through 5 karmendriyas, 5 knowledge senses and 4 inner senses. If you want to go to Delhi, there are resources. Some go by train, some go by taxi, some are rich. What do those people do, they go by airplanes.

Sahib ji said that sleep is a sign of death. The more you sleep, the more unconscious you will be. It does strange things in the sleep state. It has an adverse effect on the brain. I know what is the joy of being awake. I have told about it in my spiritual journey. This waking state is also a fraud. This world is like a dream in sleep. Yogis know how to come out of dreams and waking states. Yogis and Jogeshwars roam around in subtle bodies, but are unable to achieve that speed. Only saints can reach there.

# Rajesh Gupta Quits BSP, Claims Mayawati's Leadership Is Inoperative

Top News Report



JAMMU, Oct 20: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) general secretary and media head J&K UT, Rajesh Gupta, while addressing to media persons at Dogra Hall, New Rehari Jammu said, "I resigned from the post of general secretary and media head J&K UT and I have forwarded my resignation letter to National President and J&K UT president.

Gupta said he worked in BSP wholeheartedly to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir and I always given my hundred percent contributions to lift the party. Rajesh Gupta said I am quitting from all the posts

he held and from the primary membership of the party".

Replying to a question asked by a press reporter that why he is resigning from the party which he joined a year ago? Rajesh Gupta said the current situation of J&K particularly Jammu forced me to resign from the party and my aim is to eradicate the BJP from the region and aware the Jammu people by showing

ing them the right path and to crush the wrong policies and programs of BJP who misled the innocent people of UT.

Gupta said BSP is headless party now Behan Mayawatiji not taking any initiative to run the party when commander of an Army is not leading then what soldiers will do?

I contested the recent assembly election on BSP ticket but it was beyond my expectations that not a single party worker or any senior leadership joined me in my election campaign. When party itself has decided not to function then what can I do? I can't sit idle and I will continue my services for the people of Jammu, Gupta, added.

# Shiv Sena demands for cow protection law, put a complete stop on smuggling

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 20: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has demanded from Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to respect the sentiments of Hindus of Jammu-Kashmir, bring cow protection law and issue orders for strict legal action under PSA against smugglers.

During a program organized today in the party's state central office, Sahni praised the Omar government for passing the proposal of restoration of state status in the first cabinet meeting and the approval of the Lieutenant Governor. Sahni has demanded from the Omar government to respect the religious sentiments of Hindus, bring cow protection law in Jammu-Kashmir and



take strict legal action under strict law like PSA to put a complete stop on cow smuggling incidents. Citing the clash between cow smugglers and local people in Bishnah of Jammu yesterday, Sahni said that the incidents of cow smuggling are increasing day by day which is also creating a rift in mutual brotherhood. Sahni said that in Hinduism, cow has been given the status of mother. Sahni has announced his full support to the cam-

paign of Jyotishpeethadhiswar Shankaracharya Swami Shri Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati to declare cow as the mother of the nation and impose a complete ban on cow slaughter. Sahni has also demanded from the Jammu and Kashmir government to give the status of mother of

the nation. Sahni said that during the Dogra rule, cow slaughter was banned in Jammu and Kashmir. Violation of this rule was severely punished. After the implementation of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act-2019 in the state, it was freed from the category of crime.

# Aryans Nursing students shine in Academic Results

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 20: Students of Aryans Institute of Nursing (AIN), Rajpura, Near Chandigarh brought laurels again by giving their excellent performance in the 5th Semester Examinations conducted by Aryans under Baba Farid University of Health Sciences (BFUHS), Faridkot.

In B. Sc. Nursing, Aman Afzal bagged first position and secured 74.5% while Vishwajeet bagged

2nd position by securing 71.8%. Indu bagged 3rd position by securing 70.9% in the 5th semester exams in Aryans Institute of Nursing.

Kamlesh Rani, Vice Principal AIN congratulated the students for putting their hard work, efforts and performing well. She added that such results by the students and College regularly makes the College one of the most preferred destinations among students.

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