

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**North Korea ICBM launch intended as message to 'rivals,' Kim says**



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## BRIEFLY

### DSEK orders change in school timing for Kashmir Division

SRINAGAR, Oct 31 (Agencies): The Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) Thursday ordered change in school timing for Kashmir division with effect from November-01.

DSEK in an order said that the schools within Srinagar municipal limits shall have a school time of 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in all government and private schools. It also said that the educational institutes outside municipal limits of Srinagar and other areas of Kashmir province shall have timing of 10:30 am to 03:30 pm.

"All the concerned institutions must strictly adhere to order and instructions and any deviation in this regard will be seriously," it reads.

### Stringent Vehicle Guidelines for Civil Secretariat ahead of Legislative Session

#### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: In preparation for the upcoming Legislative Assembly session in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the General Administration Department has issued stringent guidelines regarding vehicle entry and parking at the Civil Secretariat and Assembly complex Srinagar during the session.

According to Circular No. 24-JK (GAD) of 2024, all officers and officials working in the Civil Secretariat are requested to extend full support to the Senior Superintendent of Police (Security) and the Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) in regulating vehicle movement.

The circular outlines specific parking protocols: vehicles belonging to assembly staff and media personnel must park in designated areas, while escort vehicles will be accommodated at Kashmir Haat (Exhibition Complex).

Importantly, no private vehicles belonging to officers, officials, or other employees will be permitted within the Secretariat premises during the session.

Administrative Secretaries have been instructed to disseminate these guidelines among their respective

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## People vote without discrimination for first time in J&K: PM Modi

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have decisively turned away from 'separatism and terrorism, instead embracing democracy through the power of their vote'.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted that the elections were held in Jammu and Kashmir without discrimination since India's independence 75 years ago.

Addressing the nation on Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, PM Modi noted



that this moment marks the first time a Chief Minister in J&K has taken the oath under the Constitu-

tion of India.

Speaking from Kevadia, Gujarat, during the Unity Day celebrations, PM said, "Today, the patriotic people of J&K have made the Constitution and democracy victorious."

Modi honored the spirit of the voters in Jammu and Kashmir, saying, "On Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, I salute the people of J&K with all reverence."

Highlighting the country's journey over the past decade, Modi remarked that India has addressed

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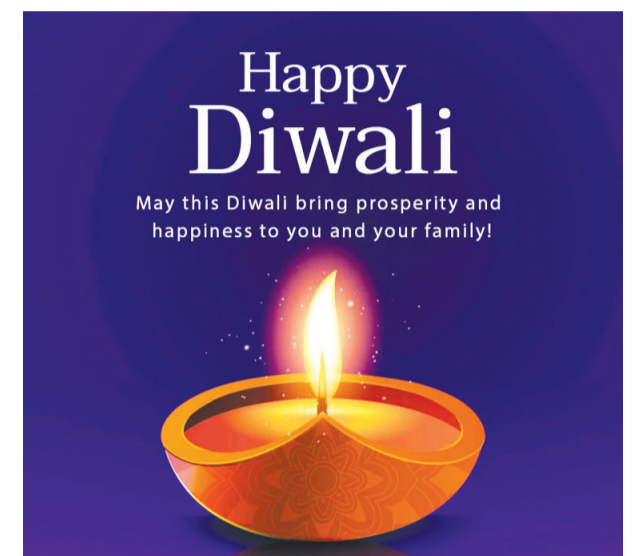
### CM Omar Abdullah wishes people on Diwali

#### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday extended Diwali greetings to people.

"Wishing everyone celebrating today a very happy #Diwali. May the light of all the lamps fill

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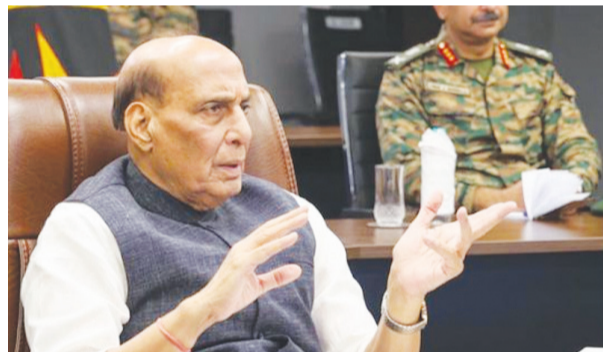
Happy Diwali 2024 to Our Readers

## Disengagement process in certain areas along LAC "Almost Complete": Rajnath Singh

### ITANAGAR, Oct 31

(Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said the disengagement process in certain areas along LAC was "almost complete" based on consensus achieved between India and China.

Unveiling a statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and inaugurating the Major Ralengnao 'Bob' Khating Museum of Valour at



Tawang, Singh referred to the broad consensus achieved by India and China to restore the ground situation in certain areas along the LAC. "India and China have been holding talks

at both diplomatic and military levels to resolve the differences in some areas along the LAC. As a result of the talks, a broad consensus was developed on the basis of equal and mutual security. The consensus includes the rights of patrolling and grazing in traditional areas," he said.

"Based on this consensus, the process of disengagement is almost

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## J&K a UT, everyone must accept this reality: LG Sinha



### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday said that J&K is a Union Territory and everybody

must accept this reality. He also said when J&K would be State again, the day would be celebrated as well.

Talking to reporters

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after addressing the UT Foundation Day at SKICC on the banks of Dal Lake here, the LG, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that J&K is a UT and everybody must accept this reality.

"Things took the shape as promised by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah that first delimitation, then Assembly polls and then Statehood at an appropriate

## Indian, Chinese troops exchange sweets at several Border Points on Diwali



NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): Troops of India and China exchanged sweets at several border points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the occasion of Diwali on Thursday, Army sources said.

The traditional prac-

tice was observed a day after both countries completed the disengagement at two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh, bringing a fresh thaw in the Sino-Indian ties.

"Sweets exchange between members of

the troops of India and China took place at several border points along the LAC on the occasion of Diwali," an Army source told agency.

The exchange took place at five Border Personnel Meeting (BPM) points along the LAC, sources added.

On Wednesday, an Army source said that troops of both sides had completed the disengagement at the two friction points and patrolling would commence soon at these points.

The verification process after the disengagement was in progress and

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## Air Marshal Pankaj Mohan Sinha visits AFS in Ladakh, celebrates Diwali with air warriors

### Top News Report

LEH, Oct 31: Air Marshal Pankaj Mohan Sinha, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Air Command, marked the auspicious occasion of Deepawali by visiting Air Force Station Thoise and Air Force Station Leh, spending quality time with the Air Warriors stationed there. The Air Marshal commended the personnel for their unwavering commitment, resilience, and courage in challenging conditions, and extended warm greetings to all personnel and their families.



During his visit, Air Marshal Sinha inaugurated a state-of-the-art Air Traffic Services Complex at Air Force Station Thoise. This advanced facility is expected to significantly bolster the base's operational readiness and enhance the

strategic capabilities of the Indian Air Force in the region.

The Air Marshal also paid homage at Tsoagsalu, Nyoma, and the Rezang-La memorial, reflecting on the sacrifices made by the armed

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## Gupshup

Restaurant & Homestay / Guest House

Air-Conditioner Rooms with attach Bathroom

Location like Dalhousie

<p><b>Room No: 1</b></p>	<p><b>RESTAURANT</b></p>
<p><b>Room No: 2</b></p>	
<p><b>Room No: 3</b></p>	
<p><b>Room No: 4</b></p>	

Situated at Ban, Bantatalab, Old National Highway Road Nagrota, Jammu.

Contact for Kitty Parties, Birthday Parties and other parties

Contact: 9086072548. Email: gupshupjammu@gmail.com

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & DEEP SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. HARI KRISHAN** SO LATE SH. SOM NATH, RESIDENT OF H. NO-81/3, LOWER ROOP NAGAR, NEAR MAHAJAN BUILDERS EXPIRED ON 22/10/2024.

**10TH DAY** WILL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE MENTIONED ABOVE.

Ritual	Day Date	Time
10th Day	Thursday 31/10/2024	11:00 am
KRIYA	Friday 01/11/2024	12:00 Noon
RASAM PAGRI	Friday 01/11/2024	04:00 pm

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
SMT. NEETA SHARMA (Wife)

**BHABHI AND BROTHERS**  
SMT. PARSHOTMA W/O LATE SH. RAM PAUL  
SMT. CHAMPA DEVI W/O LATE SH. RAMESH KUMAR

**SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW**  
ANKUSH SHARMA & SHIVANI SHARMA

**DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW**  
PRIYA SHARMA & SHAKUN KHAJURIA  
RITKA SHARMA & ANIL KHAJURIA

**NEPHEW & NIECE IN LAWS**  
RETHESH SHARMA AND SWATI SHARMA  
ROHIT SHARMA

**GRAND SONS AND DAUGHTERS**  
MEDHASVI, AADVIK, AVIGHNA, KAASHVI, HARSHITA, DHANSHIKA, ASTITAV

**ALL NEARS AND DEARS**  
MOBILE NO:- 8015476076, 9419334485



SH. HARI KRISHAN

**10TH DAY**

With deep grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Darshna Devi Ji** wife of Late Sh Hem Raj Ji resident of House No. 378, Gole Panjpeer Sarika Nagar Lane No. 1.

**The Tenth Day** will be held on 2nd Nov. 2024 (Saturday) at our residence at 12.00 Noon.

**Grief Stricken**  
**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Bansi Lal & Madhu Rani  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Bandana & Raj Ram  
**Ph. 6005626425**



Smt Darshna Devi Ji

**CHOUBARSI**

Choubarsi of our beloved **Sh Ashwani Gupta (BABY SHAH)** will be performed on Saturday 2nd November, 2024 at Dewan Janj Ghar Sarwal Colony Jammu at 12 Noon.

**Deeply Missed & Remembered By Sons & Daughters in law**  
Ajay & Sonika Gupta  
Amit & Saniya Gupta  
**Daughter & Son in law**  
Taruna & Harjinder Gupta

**Grand Children**  
Nishtha, Aseemta, Aarav, Aaravika, Umeshwar, Adarshi

**DAYAL DISPOSALS (Subash Nagar)**  
**DAYAL FOOD INDUSTRIES (Bari Brahmna)**  
**HARI GARMENTS (Paharian Mohalla)**  
Mob - 9419127176, 9419196684, 9419186491



Sh Ashwani Gupta (BABY SHAH)

**10TH DAY / KRIYA**

With heavy hearts and deep sorrow, we share the sad news of the passing of our beloved **Shri Parveen Kumar Bindroo (Amit Ji / Veer Ji Papa)**, S/o the Late Shri Inder Das Bindroo, resident of Sati Bala, Srinagar, Kashmir, (Presently Residing at House No 116 Suryavanshi Nagar, Lower Roop Nagar, Muthi Near Mallesh Bharti Aashram) on 23rd Oct 2024.

**THE TENTH-DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 1st Nov 2024 at Muthi Ghat, Jammu, J&K, at 9:00 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Smt. Rita Bindroo -Wife  
Sh. Vijay Kumar Bindroo -Brother  
Smt. Phoolo Bindroo (Pyari) -Sister-in-law  
Sister and Brother in law  
Smt. Phoolo Mattoo and Sh. Mohan Lal Mattoo  
Smt. Neelam Kachroo and Smt. Krishan Ji Kachroo  
Vishal Bindroo -Son  
Son and Daughter-in-law  
Aman Bindroo and Monisha Bindroo  
Ashwani Kumar Bindroo and Bhavna Bindroo  
**Daughter and Son-in-Law**  
Soniya Gujral and Deepak Gujral  
Contact Numbers : +91 9004060007, +91 7006863142, +91 9082979097, +91 9000904153



Shri Parveen Kumar Bindroo (Amit Ji / Veer Ji Papa)

**OBITUARY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our father **Sh. M.L Koul Sharabi S/o Lt. M.N Koul** originally R/o Shala Kadal, Srinagar A/P Hno. 173, Sec-1/C, Est Ext, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu on 29.10.2024.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Jaya Sharabi (Wife)  
**(Daughters & Son-in-Laws)**  
Mrs. Sunaina Bhat & Mr. Virender Bhat  
Mrs. Ritu Koul & Mr. Anil Koul  
**(Sons & Daughter-in-Laws)**  
Mr. Rajesh Koul & Mrs. Vansha  
Mr. Sunil Sharabi & Mrs. Chandra Koul

**Grand Children's**  
Kornal Bhan & Aishay Bhan, Koyal Kaul & Sahil Kaul, Ananta Koul, Anant Koul & Akash Koul.

**Great Grand Children's**  
Anvit Koul, Tavish Koul & Arya Bhan

Contact Details: 9419261093, 9682173499, 9419730018, 8427053290



Sh. M.L Koul Sharabi

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that the **10TH DAY KRIYA** of our karmyogi mother **Smt. Kishni Pandita (Pyari)**. W/o Sh. Amar Nath Pandita Originally R/o Rohmu Pulwama A/P H.No 218 Lane No 1A Sai Vihar opposite Royal Fitness Gym / SBI ATM, Anand Nagar Bohri Jammu, shall be performed on 1st Nov (Friday) at Muthi Ghat near Education Dte. The assembly shall be at 8:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
**SAMAST-PANDITA/ RAINA/ ZADOO PARIWAR.**  
**Mobile No: 9419614790, 9013251109, 9419101312, 6005183977**



Smt. Kishni Pandita (Pyari).

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that **Sh Chaman Lal Koul S/o Late Mahadev Ji Koul**, originally R/o Bagh Jogi Lankar, Rainawari, Srinagar (Kmr), presently H.No-18, 2nd Floor, Pocket-13, Sec-20, Rohini, Delhi-87, left for heavenly abode on 24th Oct 2024, at Delhi.

On 2nd Nov, 10 a.m, the **10th DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Badli, Sec-18, Rohini, Delhi-85, near Telephone Exchange opposite Bus Depot.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Rajlulari Koul- Wife  
Sanjay & Babita Koul (Son & D-in-Law) Mob: 9650132542  
Kiran & Deepak Khushu ( Daughter & Son-in-law)-9910776262  
Anusua & Sudhir Koul ( Daughter & Son-in-law)-986888556  
Sheela Koul- Bhabhi- (W/o Late Rattan Lal Koul)  
Upinder Koul (Mozza) Brother-in-law-9149953007  
Subash Raina (Langar) - Co Brother in law-7780988598  
Grand children :- Samiksha Koul, Angad Khushu, Sakshi and Arushi



Sh Chaman Lal Koul

**10TH DAY**

With Profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved daughter **Miss Sunali Jamwal D/o Hardev Singh and Suraj Kanta R/o 24-A Ext. Karan Nagar Jammu** who left for her heavenly abode on 23/10/2024.

**10th Day** will be held on 01/11/2024 (Friday) at 10 am at Ved Mandir, Amphalla, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Hardev Singh and Suraj Kanta (Father and Mother)  
Shivani Jamwal and Sachin Slathia (Sister and Brother-in-law)  
Rajesh Jamwal and Mitika (Brother and Sister-in-law)  
Rakesh Jamwal and Shaveta (Brother and Sister-in-law)  
Niece and Nephew (Shivanshi, Divija, Avyukt and Bivan)  
**9622398201/9906094475/7051003655/7006847462/8082614112)**



Beloved Miss Sunali Jamwal Date : 23-10-2024, Wednesday

**TENTH DAY/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Madan Lal Gandotra S/o Late Sh. Hemraj Gandotra**.

**Tenth Day** shall be performed at our residence(Reasi) on Friday, 1st Nov, 2024 at 11:00 AM.

**Uthala** shall be performed at our residence(Reasi) on Monday, 4th Nov, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
**Son and Daughter-in-law**  
Yogesh Gandotra and Preeti Gandotra  
Amit Gandotra and Swati Lattoo Bhat(Gandotra)

**Daughter and Son-in-law**  
Monika Chopra and Narinder Chopra  
Sonika Pandoh w/o Lt. Vikas Pandoh  
Priyanka Chadha and Ranjan Chadha  
Pooja Pawar and Somesh Pawar

Contact No. 9622114029, 7889672947



Sh. Madan Lal Gandotra

**CHOUBARSI**

**SMT. TARO DEVI**  
Celebrate her life and her memory  
1st November, 2024  
From 12.00 Noon  
Venue :  
In Gorkha Mandir, Nanak Nagar, Jammu

**FONDLY REMEMBERED BY**  
(Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Puneet Kumar Darmania & Arti Darmania  
Grand Children  
Shant & Mannat  
Mob.: 9906009704, 7006636007



Smt. Taro Devi D.O.D.: 15/11/2020

**OBITUARY**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF **MR. RAMESH KUMAR SUS S/O JANKI NATH SUS R/O 71 MALAYAR NAI SADAK SRINAGAR PRESENTLY AT H NO 59A SUBASH NAGAR JAMMU ON 28-10-2024.**

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**SURESH LATA RAINA (WIFE)**  
**AYUSH SUS ( SON)**  
**SHIVANI SUS (DAUGHTER)**  
**SUS, KOUL , MATTOO, SHARMA PARIVAR**  
**7006433154, 7006387257, 9149527521**



MR. RAMESH KUMAR SUS

**10TH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved **Sh. Sat Paul Singh Jamwal**, Retd. S.H.O. JKP, S/o Late Sh. Mangal Singh Jamwal R/o Old Gurha Bakshi Nagar, Jammu, expired on 21st October 2024.

**10th Day** will be performed on Wednesday 10:00 AM at Rajput Sabha Old Gurha.

**Kriya Karam (13th Day)** on Saturday at 12:00 Noon and **Uthala** would be at 4:00 PM at Rajput Sabha.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Brothers & Bhabhis**  
Manjeet Singh Jamwal & Asha Jamwal  
Kuljeet Singh Jamwal & Ritu Jamwal

**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Lt. Sh. Rajinder Singh Jamwal & Rajni Jamwal  
Ravinder Singh Jamwal & Anju Jamwal

**Grand Children :**  
Rupum Jamwal, Kanhaiya Jamwal, Hari Vardhan Singh Jamwal, Aashima Jamwal, Reevan Singh Jamwal



Sh. Sat Paul Singh Jamwal

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Lalita Raina (W/o Late Shri Shiv Nath Raina)** who left for her heavenly abode on Thursday, 24th October 2024 at her residence H.No. 151, Lane No.1, Lower Shanti Nagar, Toph Sherkhania, Jammu.

**PRAYER MEET** will take place on Saturday, 2nd November 2024 from 01:00 PM to 02:00 PM at Gurudwara Kalgidhar, Rehari Road, Jammu.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-**  
**RAINA'S, KAUL'S, DHAR'S, TIKOO'S & BAKAYA'S**  
**JAMMU BATTERIES**  
**MOB: 9419240086, 9717984103**



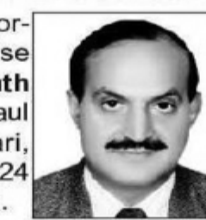
Smt. Lalita Raina

**OBITUARY & TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Badri Nath Kaul S/o Late Sh. S.N. Kaul** (originally R/o Rainawari, Srinagar) on 24 October, 2024 at Solan, Himachal Pradesh.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 2nd November at Solan.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**KAUL AND SADHU FAMILY,**  
Rajrani Villa, Sabathu Road, Saproon, Solan H.P.  
**9418468570, 6230941963**



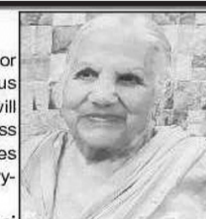
Sh. Badri Nath Kaul

**BARKHI**

One year has passed since you left us for heavenly abode. Your departure has left us unfillable void and the pain of losing you will never fade but your blessings and kindness will always remain with us. Your memories are still fresh and your presence is felt everywhere.

**Barkhi** of our beloved Mother **Smt. Raj Kumari Gupta (Mela Devi)** Wife of Late Shri Baldev Raj Gupta shall be performed on 01-11-24 (Friday) at our residence H.No. 275, Bakshi Nagar Jammu at 12:00 Noon.

**Grief Stricken**  
Lalit Kumar Gupta & Brij Bala Gupta - Son & Daughter-in-law  
Santosh Gupta W/o Late Shri Satpal Gupta - Bhabhi  
Anjana Abrol & L.N. Abrol - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Manju Gupta & Vinod Mahajan - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Sarita Gupta & Rakesh Kumar Gupta - Daughter & Son-in-law



Smt. Raj Kumari Gupta (Mela Devi)

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## Lt Governor administers 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' Pledge to officers at Raj Bhawan; pays tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his Janm-Jayanti

### Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel dedicated his life for India's freedom and creation of a united India: LG Sinha

#### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha administered 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' Pledge to the officers at Raj Bhawan, on the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Paying tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his Janm-Jayanti, the Lt Governor has called upon the people to dedi-



cate themselves to the ideals of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and

work towards building a Viksit Bharat.

The Lieutenant Governor has posted on X:

"Humble tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Ji, Iron Man of India, on his birth anniversary. He dedicated his life for India's freedom & creation of a united India. On the occasion of his Janm-Jayanti, let us dedicate ourselves to his ideals & work towards building a Viksit Bharat".

## Dulloo administers 'Unity Pledge' to Civil Secretariat employees

#### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: On the eve of 10th Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Thursday administered 'Unity Pledge' to the officers and officials of Civil Secretariat here.

These civil servants

solemnly pledged that they dedicate themselves to preserve the unity, integrity and security of the nation and would also strive hard to spread this message among other countrymen.

They also pledged that in the spirit of unification of the country they resolve to make contribution to ensure internal security of their country. Pertinent to mention

here that the day is celebrated to commemorate the contribution of India's first Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in the unification of this country.

Today it was Sardar Patel's 150th Birth anniversary and from the year 2014 the day is commemorated as 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' all over the country.

## JKTF Kulgam hails Govt's decision to revert academic session to Nov-Dec

#### Top News Report

KULGAM, Oct 31: Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum kulgam has expressed joy and satisfaction on Government's decision to revert academic session to Nov-Dec.

In a statement issued this evening, the forum president, Muzamil Ahmad Bhat thanked J&K UT Chief Minister Omar Abdullah & education minister Sakeena Itoo for sensing the gravity of the issue and coming to the rescue of thousands of Students.

Muzamil Bhat said that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and his colleagues had promised to discontinue the March Session & today's announcement has come as a big relief to all the stakeholders. In a bold speech National Conference Senior leader and Parliamentarian Member Aga Syed Rohullah Mehdi had raised the issue in the parliament & emphasised on the futility of March Session in this part of the world.

Teachers Forum had relentlessly raised the issue even before the formation of the Government. A number of memoranda were submitted to different quarters wherein the

demand to restore the old academic session was highlighted. Off late the voices demanding the discontinuation of March exam session had got shriller. Over the last two years all the stakeholders had felt the technical flaws in the move to conduct exams in March.

Parents, Civil Society members, academicians, teachers, were aghast on the ill conceived move as it was robbing students of their precious time. As a primary stakeholder in the process, the union was the sole trade union which was pressurizing the authorities to do away with March Session. Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum led by president Mohammad Shafi Rather and all provincial, district and zonal bodies of JKTF has expressed heartfelt gratitude towards C M Omar Abdullah, Education Minister Sakeena Itoo and all those who advocated in favour of the legitimate cause.

The leadership of the forum said that this decision will go a long way in reforming the system and taking Jammu Kashmir to the zenith of success as far as attainment of educational outcomes is concerned.

## GRP Jammu hosts farewell function for superannuating police personnel

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 31: GRP Jammu hosted an impressive farewell function in the premises of SSP office Railways Jammu to bid adieu to the Police Personnel who superannuated from their active services. SSP GRP Jammu, Shailender Singh along with other officers, officials participated in the function. The relatives of the superannuated SI Abdul Hamid also took part in the event.

SSP GRP Jammu while acknowledging the contribution of the outgoing officers conveyed his best wishes to the retiring police personnel and prayed for their good health and success post retirement.

The superannuated police personnel also spoke on the occasion shared their experience in the department and thanked SSP GRP Jammu and other officers & officials for organizing the farewell party.

## Nighat Mir greets people on Diwali

#### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: Social Activist Nighat Mir on Thursday greeted the people on the eve of the auspicious occasion of Diwali.

"On the joyous occasion of Deepawali, I extend my warm greetings and good wishes to all," Nighat Mir said in a statement.

The festival signifies the triumph of righteousness and celebrates the victory of light over darkness, goodness over evil and knowledge over ignorance, she said.

"On this occasion, let us dedicate ourselves towards illuminating the lives of all with joy and prosperity and spread the light of love, affection and brotherhood," Nighat Mir said.

May the festival of lights this year usher in peace, prosperity and happiness for all, she added.

## Congress workers pay tributes to Indira Gandhi in Jammu North Assembly Segment

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 31: Congress workers gathered today in the Jammu North Assembly Segment to observe the death anniversary of the late Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, paying homage to her enduring legacy and remarkable contributions to the nation.

Led by Hari Singh Chib, Vice President of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee, the assembly of dedicated party members and supporters reaffirmed their commitment to the ideals and values championed by Smt. Gandhi.

The event witnessed participation from key Congress workers of the Jammu North Assembly Segment, including Om Parkash, S.H. Dubey (Ward President), Bal Krishan Sharma (President, Roopnagar Welfare Society), Tarun Vaid, Kamal Singh,

Ranjeet Singh, Kaka Ram, Romesh Kumar, Gulshan, and Vinay.

These leaders emphasized the significance of Indira Gandhi's vision in shaping a modern and self-reliant India, inspiring generations to come.

Women leaders also played a prominent role in the ceremony.

Rajni Bala, former Corporator of Ward No. 60, and Smt. Veena Devi, Block President of Mahila Congress, paid their respects, underlining the importance of women empowerment, an area in which Smt. Gandhi herself was a trailblazer.

In addition, the event was graced by Madan Singh Chib, Vice President of District Congress Committee (DCC) Jammu Urban; Sat Pal Singh Chib, President of Aap Shambu Committee; Virender Mehta; and Tarsem Singh. Each leader shared personal

reflections on how Gandhi's leadership and her unwavering resolve continue to inspire Congress workers in their quest for a prosperous and united India.

Addressing the gathering, Hari Singh Chib spoke about Indira Gandhi's indelible legacy, particularly her efforts toward social justice, economic growth, and national unity. He urged Congress workers to uphold her vision by working tirelessly to address issues affecting the people of Jammu and the wider community.

The programme concluded with a pledge by Congress workers to carry forward the ideals of Smt. Gandhi, focusing on inclusivity, progressive change, and the welfare of every citizen, in line with the values she instilled in the Congress party and the nation.

## Sunderbani Congress pays tributes to Indira Gandhi

#### Top News Report

SUNDERBANI, Oct 31: Floral tributes were paid to late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her 40th martyrdom day today at block Congress HQ Sunder Bani by the congress activists.

A function was held here today which was attended by large number of Congress workers in which rich tributes were paid to Indira Gandhi, the Iron Lady

of India. The speakers recalled her great contributions for the country and the creation of Bangladesh.

The speakers also remembered Sardar Patel the first Deputy Prime Minister & Home Minister & recalled his great contributions.

Two minutes silence was observed to pray for peace to the departed Souls.

The function was presided by Block President

N C Sharma and attended by several senior leaders. Ajit Singh Dwarka Nath Sharma, Prncipal Vijay Damral,

Puran Chand Capt Joginder Singh, Chuni Lal Sharma, Om Parkash Sharma, Ashwani Kumar, Nobat Ram, Sanjeev Sharma, Tilak Raj, Tej Ram, Kesho Ram and others.

## Council of Ministers greets people on Diwali

#### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: The Council of Ministers has greeted the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Diwali.

The Ministers hoped that this auspicious occasion would further strengthen the bonds of communal harmony, amity, brotherhood and will be harbinger of peace, progress and prosperity for the people.

The Ministers included Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Masood, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar and Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Satish Sharma.

They expressed hope that the Diwali would open a new chapter of progress and all round development in the region.

## Anti Corruption Bureau to hold two mega events at Rajouri, Jammu

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 31: In connection with commemoration of Vigilance Awareness Week 2024, the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) is organizing two programmes in Rajouri and Jammu.

The first programme will be held on November 4 at 1100 hrs at Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri, which shall also be visualized at DC Office Poonch, Directorate of Health Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, DC Office, Ramban and DC office Budgam through video conference.

The second event would be held at 1500 hrs at MAM College Jammu, which shall also be visualized at DC Offices of Poonch, Rajouri and Udhampur.

NORTHERN RAILWAY								
NOTICE INVITING TENDER								
Sr.DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids upto closing date 22.11.2024 at 15.00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.								
Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (Rs.)	Cost of Tender form(Rs.)	Date & time for submission of tender	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
613A-TRD-FZR-2024-25	Comprehensive Maintenance Contract for various types of 04- Wheeler and 8-Wheeler Tower Wagons over Firozpur division for a period of Three years.	5,24,96,843.65	NIL	Upto 22.11.2024 15.00 Hrs.	4,12,500/-	Thirty Six (36) Months	22.11.2024 after 15.00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in
Similar Nature of Work: OEM and their authorized dealers.								
OR								
Manufacturer of Towers Wagons								
OR								
Five Years Experience in Repair / Overhauling of Engines of same capacity and above.								
(Ref: S.No.2.4 of Pr. CEE/NR's Letter No. 14-Elect/Pig/ Similar Nature of Work, dated 24.09.2012).								
<b>Note: #</b>								
Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway. No.: 613A-TRD-FZR-2024-25 Dated: 30.10.2024								
<b>SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE</b>								
3372/24								

**Government of Jammu and Kashmir**  
**DIRECTORATE OF SAMAGRA SHIKSHA, J&K**  
(Winter) Opposite Gurdwara, NI Iyoo Pass Road Canal Rama Jammu - 180019  
(Summer) Behind B&I Hospital, Baghat-I-Barzulla, Rawatpora Srinagar-190005  
Phone (Jammu): 0191-2246421 (Srinagar): 0194-2435895  
Email: jksamagrashiksha@gmail.com

**NOTICE FOR INVITING APPLICATION FOR HIRING OFFICE ACCOMMODATION ON RENTAL BASIS**

The Directorate of Samagra Shiksha, J&K intends to hire a building or a part of a building on lease / rent at Srinagar for office accommodation. The premises should be within Municipal limits of the Srinagar City. The total covered area required for the office is around 5000-6000 Sq.ft of carpet area as a single unit (excluding the common area like lift, staircase etc if it is a multi-storied building). The accommodation must be having ample parking area in & around.

The rent will be paid as per the rules / norms issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Government and after its assessment by PW(R&B) Department, duly endorsed by the empowered Rent Assessment Committee constituted by the Government in this regard.

Interested parties (PSUs, Govt. and Non-Govt.) may furnish the application to the office of Directorate of Samagra Shiksha, Rawat Pora Baghat Barzulla behind Bone & Joint Hospital Srinagar, along with the copies of approved Building Plan by the competent authority, Layout Plan, Revenue Documents and other allied documents, by or before 5<sup>th</sup> of November, 2024.  
(Photograph of building may also be attached.)

Administrative Officer,  
Samagra Shiksha,  
J&K UT.

DIP/J-6356/24

No:- Edu/PD/SmSI/2024/10867-70/2024-25 Dated 29.10.2024

## EDITORIAL

## Embracing Spirit of Diwali

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is one of the most celebrated festivals in India and among Indian communities worldwide. It symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. As we approach this auspicious occasion, it's time to reflect on the significance of Diwali and share heartfelt wishes with our loved ones, embracing the spirit of togetherness and joy that this festival brings.

Diwali, derived from the Sanskrit word "Deep-avali," meaning "row of lights," is celebrated over five days. Each day holds its own significance, but the third day, known as Lakshmi Puja, is the most important when families worship the goddess of wealth and prosperity, Lakshmi. The festival is steeped in various cultural and religious traditions, making it a vibrant and inclusive celebration.

As we decorate our homes with diyas (lamps) and colorful rangolis (artistic designs made on the floor), we create a warm and inviting atmosphere. The flickering lights symbolize hope and positivity, illuminating our surroundings and our hearts. This Diwali, let us embrace the essence of the festival by spreading love, kindness, and compassion.

To my beloved family, this Diwali, I wish you all the joy and prosperity in the world. May the light of the diyas fill our home with warmth and happiness, and may we always stand together through thick and thin. Let us cherish the moments we share and strengthen the bonds that unite us. May our hearts be filled with love, and may we continue to support each other in every endeavor.

As we celebrate this festival, let us remember to express gratitude for the blessings we have. Family is our greatest treasure, and this Diwali, let us take a moment to appreciate the love and laughter we share. May our home be filled with the sweet sound of laughter, the aroma of delicious food, and the warmth of togetherness.

To my dear friends, as the festival of Diwali approaches, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you. May this Diwali bring you abundant joy and happiness. Your friendship is a light in my life, and I am grateful for the memories we have created together.

On this special occasion, let us celebrate the spirit of Diwali by sharing laughter, love, and sweets. May the glow of the diyas brighten your path and guide you toward success in all your endeavors. Let us make this Diwali memorable by creating new memories and cherishing the old ones.

To my esteemed colleagues, as we celebrate Diwali, I wish you and your families a prosperous and joyful festival. May the light of Diwali inspire us to work together with renewed energy and enthusiasm. Let this festival be a reminder of the importance of teamwork and collaboration as we strive to achieve our goals.

May this Diwali bring you peace and happiness in both your personal and professional lives. Let us celebrate the successes we have achieved together and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead. Wishing you a wonderful Diwali filled with joy, laughter, and unforgettable moments.

As we gather to celebrate Diwali in our community, I wish for harmony and unity among us all. May this festival strengthen the bonds that tie us together and remind us of the importance of kindness and compassion. In a world that often seems divided, let us come together to celebrate the spirit of Diwali with open hearts and minds.

Let us extend our hands to those in need and share the joy of this festival with everyone around us. May the light of Diwali illuminate the path toward a brighter future for all, and may we always remember to lift each other up in times of need.

Diwali is not just about lighting lamps and bursting crackers; it is a time for reflection and gratitude. As we celebrate, let us take a moment to reflect on the year gone by, the lessons we have learned, and the goals we aspire to achieve.

Let us also remember those who are less fortunate and extend our support to those in need. In the spirit of Diwali, we can make a difference by sharing our blessings and spreading joy to those around us.

As we prepare to celebrate Diwali, let us immerse ourselves in the vibrant traditions and customs that make this festival so special. May the light of the diyas fill our hearts with hope, joy, and positivity.

To everyone celebrating, I wish you a very happy Diwali! May this festival bring you peace, prosperity, and the fulfillment of your dreams. Let us come together to celebrate the triumph of light over darkness, embracing the spirit of love, unity, and joy that Diwali represents. Happy Diwali!

## Trade, profits &amp; elections: How will Cong, BJP fare?

By: Shikha Mukerjee

There are different ways of looking at elections. Regardless of the outcomes vis-à-vis the predictions made by poll result forecasters and pundits and even politicians, the fact of the matter is that they are only onlookers. On the inside are voters. The game is between the voters and political parties and each side has a different perspective. The contest in the two states of Maharashtra and Jharkhand is between the BJP and the National Democratic Alliance led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance, in which the Congress is the largest stakeholder after the 2024 Lok Sabha election results. As two states that turned into a proscenium theatre for the performance of an over-the-top script replete with acts of betrayals, disloyalty, poaching, allegations of abuse of power and corruption, between 2019 and now, voters have a decision to make; will they confirm the verdict that was delivered in 2019 and months ago in the Lok Sabha election, or will they change their mind?

In the Lok Sabha elections in 2024, the parties of the INDIA coalition were given a mandate by the voters to make change happen. It was not a clear mandate to replace Mr Modi and the NDA, but it was a verdict. It is relevant to note that the choice to not vote overwhelmingly in favour of the NDA and Mr Modi in the 2024 Lok Sabha election in Maharashtra and in Jharkhand was made after "Operation Lotus", that is, after the poaching, dismembering shenanigan staged by the BJP against the Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition of the Congress, Nationalist Congress Party and the Shiv Sena.

Likewise, in Jharkhand, voters demonstrated that they did not approve of the arrest and incarceration of Hemant Soren, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha chief minister, for alleged corruption. The Maharashtra and Jharkhand elections are therefore about how the INDIA coalition reads, implements and performs on the basis of the Lok Sabha verdict and the 2019 state Assembly results. The contest is between two coalitions, regular teams that are playing against each other. Each member of each team, as in football or cricket, is equally critical to pulling off a victory or delivering a defeat. The Congress may believe it is the biggest stakeholder and natural leader, but that is a myth the sooner it abandons the better; wisdom has prevailed in relinquishing its claims to nine Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh, but that same wisdom has failed in Assam, where it has grabbed all five seats for itself despite other claimants from allies.

Political parties create narratives to keep voter attention focused on the highlights of the story, instead of getting distracted by what rivals and competitors say, and the mundane concerns and brutalities of a cost-of-living crisis, joblessness and unemployment, the pervasive despair of few opportunities to make life easier, hunger and poverty, that is, the fundamentals that determine their day-to-day existence and the uncertainties that besiege them. Insofar as these fundamentals are concerned, nothing has changed for voters in Maharashtra from June 2024, when the Lok Sabha results were announced, to now, when the state Assembly elections are weeks away. Inflation and unemployment remain the main priorities for voters, as the

well-respected survey by Lokniti-MIT School of Government reveals.

If government and governance is based on a contract between voters and the State represented by the ruling party, then whichever side, be it NDA or INDIA, that can show voters a path to relief, not in full but in part, from the hardship and the pain, ought to be the choice. Heaping cash hand-outs, subsidies and half-baked half-hearted tax and other offsets, by segmenting voters into different categories, is not likely to change voter perception in any big way. Such subventions are always on the margin, in terms of positive returns for the party in power. There is a lesson in understanding the relationship in an election between the "ruling party", which has to first win a majority, and the person, the "Boss", who calls the shots in the election exercise. Persuading voters is what political masterminds and party managers do. The function of the political leadership is to get a perspective on what is most likely to resonate with voters and give focus to the exercise of wooing the electorate in all its diversity. Addressing the diversity can be done by dividing people into castes, sub-castes and small pockets of interest, or it can be done by assuring them of levelling the playing field through progressive positive discrimination policies building up to greater equality, justice and rights. Differences can be highlighted by promising an equalising Uniform Civil Code or differences can be respected by upholding the Constitution. From the perspective of voters, there is nothing new in the repetitive and therefore stale narrative of Hindutva that can galvanise a frenzy of support for the BJP and its Mahayuti partners in Maharash-

tra and in Jharkhand. In contrast, there is a certain freshness in the INDIA coalition's narrative about the role of government as a mechanism to address people's everyday concerns within the structure of the Constitution that promises equality, equity and justice. The real excitement of elections therefore is not in being bludgeoned into numbness by the same old spiel. Throughout the frenzied bustle before election day, the voter is an onlooker, entertained and by extension engaged in watching as in a serial on a streaming platform, the trades during seat-sharing fights within coalitions, the transactions over ticket distribution within parties, rebels, Independents and dummy candidates who could potentially profit from the business. In Maharashtra, it could boil down to fragmenting voters over OBC Maratha reservation and the appropriation and marketing by the NDA and INDIA coalitions of Babasaheb Ambedkar, described as an "inert godhead" and a sectarian figure. In Jharkhand, it could spiral around the RSS-BJP narrative that Muslim illegal immigrants, branded as Rohingyas, will marginalise the tribals, already edgy as they constitute only 26.21 per cent of the total population, because Modi 3.0 does not want to engage with the JMM on adoption of the Sarna Code, and its opposition to his agenda of legislating the Uniform Civil Code. Voters are neither inexperienced nor stupid. Their votes hoisted the INDIA coalition into a challenger position against the NDA and Narendra Modi. Should the INDIA coalition fail to live up to voters' expectations, it risks sputtering to a halt, because voters may get tired of waiting for the Congress and its partners to get their act together.

## Beijing faces the consequences of 'protecting' Pak terror nurseries

By: Bhopinder Singh

There is a rather flowery description attributed to the relationship between China and Pakistan -- "a friendship higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the ocean, sweeter than honey, and stronger than steel". A more commonly used term to describe the relationship is "iron brothers". But beyond the official shenanigans, the ground reality does not seem very brotherly, after all. In November 2018, gunmen attacked the Chinese consulate in Karachi and killed four people. In April 2022, armed gunmen killed three Chinese tutors in a suicide bombing attack in Karachi University's Confucius Institute. Earlier this year in March, a naval airbase near Gwadar port (the focal point of Chinese investment and presence in Pakistan). Recently again, a suicide bomb attack outside of Karachi's Jinnah Airport killed two Chinese engineers. The attackers in all these cases had specifically targeted Chinese personnel, investments or interests in Pakistan. The obvious targets have been in and around the various imperatives of the approximately \$62 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), an arterial extension of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative.

Given that the majority of CPEC initiatives run through the vast swathes of the restive region of Balochistan, it is the secessionist Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) that is the usual suspect behind most of the attacks. In their eyes, the Chinese are the new usurpers

and plunderers of Balochistan's natural resources, without fairly sharing the same with the locals, much like the historical impression about the Pakistani State. It is also a fact that despite a vast bounty of natural resources like coal, sulphur, chromite, iron ore, barytes, marble, quartzite, etc, the Baloch people have been denied the socio-economic and infrastructural development that has been disproportionately afforded on the more politically powerful regions like Punjab, Sindh or even Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Disaffection amongst the Baloch against the Pakistani State has gone beyond economic and cultural diminishment towards one of the majority Baloch being convinced of continuing human rights violations with violent suppression, mysterious disappearances and denials, that have worsened over time. The Chinese are seen as hand-in-glove partners of that loot "system" with the CPEC projects viewed as examples of further pillage.

Sensing the gravity of the security situation, Pakistan has now deployed two dedicated Army divisions (34th Light Infantry Division or Special Security Division, North and South) towards the protection of Chinese interests on its CPEC project sites. Similarly, the Pakistan Navy has a dedicated Task Force-88 which is tasked with protecting against seaborne threats around the Gwadar Port and the protection of the associated sea lanes.

Recently, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of

the Pakistan Cabinet further approved a supplementary grant (over and above the already approved defence budget of 2.13 trillion Pakistani rupees) of an additional 24 billion Pakistani rupees to further strengthen the protection of Chinese assets and personnel. The Chinese are still not convinced and have sought the establishment of a "joint company" to ensure the security of its citizens -- an embarrassing suggestion that implies that the Pakistani military may not be able to guarantee such safety on its own, thus possibly requiring a Chinese security apparatus to be brought in. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has claimed responsibility for the latest attack and left no doubt about the specificity of the target as they clarified that they had "targeted a high-level convoy of Chinese engineers and investors". For once the usual reference to a "foreign power" (read India and RAW) was given a miss, given the organic insurgency flaring in Balochistan, besides the relentless attack by other forces like the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a metastasized version of Pakistan's own creation, the Afghan Taliban. Beyond the platitudinous promises that follow all such attacks, the Chinese are clearly worried as its ministry of foreign affairs issued a terse warning to "remind Chinese citizens, enterprises and projects in Pakistan to keep a close eye on the local security situation, strengthen security measures and take every precaution to keep themselves safe". There is a situational irony with the

expected alacrity with which the Chinese and the Pakistanis want to include a so-called Majeed Brigade (supposed suicide wing of BLA) into the list of sanctioned entities, as maintained by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Earlier efforts to do the same were apparently blocked by some members stating the lack of enough evidence against the same. Bringing the same under the UNSC 1267 Committee would cripple its operations with an asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo. But the veto by some members disallows the same, which the Chinese and Pakistanis believe is because it serves the "ulterior purpose" of some countries. There is a sense of cruel déjà vu apparent with the Chinese playing hardball earlier, in repeatedly vetoing a resolution to sanction Masood Azhar (leader of the India-facing Jaish-e-Mohammad) as a global terrorist. While the Chinese had ultimately acceded to the same after much international pressure, it had knowingly irked India towards its own "ulterior purpose". While India does not support violence or organisations which make use of terrorism as it does not distinguish, for example, between the "good Taliban" versus the "bad Taliban", it is a lesson that Pakistan is learning the hard way after breeding religious extremism and violent forces. The Chinese, who played along for their own "ulterior purpose", are now facing a taste of the medicine that was unleashed by its "iron brother": as the maxim goes, what goes around, comes around.

## SMVDU Tech community successfully conducts Microsoft Ideathon workshop



### Top News Report

KATRA, Oct 31: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) Tech Community successfully Organized a Microsoft Ideathon Regional Workshop on 'Getting Started with Technology for 1st and 2nd year students and Placement Scenario for 3rd and 4th year Students' drawing over 400

students from various engineering disciplines and academic years. The Ideathon encouraged students to identify real-world problems and propose innovative solutions, promoting a hands-on approach to learning. Students actively applied their skills and critical thinking to tackle current tech challenges, making the event both engaging

and educational. Prominent industry speakers, including Sarthak Jain, Head of Community at ID8NXT, and Dibyasom Puhan, Head of AI and Innovation, shared their expertise and insights, inspiring participants to deepen their knowledge and passion for technology and innovation. The sessions covered essential topics such as Git and GitHub, Data

Structures and Algorithms (DSA), and various coding languages, along with a special segment on placement preparation for 3rd and 4th year students.

This gave attendees valuable insights and tools to navigate their future careers successfully.

The event was organized by student coordinators Anshul Upad-

hyay and Prem Aayush, along with faculty coordinators Swastik Gupta and Shashi Bhushan Kotwal. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, congratulated the team for the successful conduct of the program, acknowledging the importance of such initiatives in fostering a culture of innovation and learning at SMVDU.

## President of JKTF extends heartfelt Diwali greetings to employee community

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 31: On the vibrant festival of Diwali, M. Ashraf Sheikh, President of the Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF), along with his team, extended warm Diwali wishes to the entire employee community, with a special message for the teachers of Jammu and Kashmir.

"May the glow of joy, prosperity, and happiness illuminate your life and the lives of your loved ones in the year ahead," said Sheikh, celebrating the occasion with all employees and especially the teachers who contribute significantly to society. He emphasized the



beauty of Diwali as a time to cherish the victory of light over darkness and good over evil, aligning with the festival's core values of unity and community.

Diwali, known as the Festival of Lights, holds deep significance across India. Celebrated over five days - Dhanteras, Choti Diwali, Diwali, a day of rest, and Bhai Dooj - it brings families together to light earthen lamps, burst fireworks, enjoy

festive foods, wear new clothes, and honor traditions through prayer. The festival commemorates the return of Lord Ram from exile and his victory over Ravan, symbolizing triumph and hope. It's also a day to welcome the goddess of prosperity, Lakshmi, into homes that are pure, bright, and inviting.

Sheikh added that the JKTF cherishes Diwali as a time to uphold the rich traditions of unity, communal harmony, and universal brotherhood - values that have been passed down by ancestors. He and his team wish everyone a joyous Diwali filled with peace, prosperity, and happiness.

## Dr. Devansh Yadav, IAS, CEO of Jammu Smart City Project, honored at UMIC 2024

### Top News Report

JAMMU / GUJARAT, Oct 31: Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) celebrated a remarkable achievement as its E-Autos and E-Rickshaws project received the Excellence in Urban Transport award at the 17th Urban Mobility India Conference and Expo in Gandhinagar. The award, conferred by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs ML Khattar, recognized JSCL for implementing the "City with Most Innovative Financing Mechanism" in urban transport.

Dr. Devansh Yadav, CEO of the Jammu Smart City Project, accepted the award with his team, underscoring the project's socio-economic



and environmental contributions. "This eco-friendly initiative has reduced dependence on conventional fuels and provided sustainable employment to approximately 800 low-income families in Jammu," Dr. Yadav remarked, highlighting the project's dual focus on sustainable transport and economic empowerment.

Dr. Yadav, a distinguished IAS officer, previously served as

Deputy Commissioner of Kishtwar, where his leadership saw the district win a SKOCH Award in the education sector for enrolling over 2,000 out-of-school children in the "Back to School" campaign.

The Times of Kishtwar extends warm congratulations to Dr. Devansh Yadav and JSCL, celebrating this award as a significant milestone in sustainable urban development and community upliftment.

## National Unity Day 2024 celebrated in GDC Mahanpur

### Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Oct 31: National Unity Day 2024 was celebrated in GDC Mahanpur on October 31, 2024. An Invited Lecture was organised to celebrate National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The programme was organised by Dr. Jogbinder Singh Soodan, Physical Director, under the supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Sangeeta Sudan, the Principal of the College.

Prof. (Dr.) Sangeeta Sudan (Principal) was the Chief Guest and Sh. Suresh Kumar Sharma was the Resource Person and the Guest of Honour on the occasion. The programme commenced with the



Lamp lighting ceremony by the dignitaries. Moreover, the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour were also welcomed with the bouquet of flowers by the Organizing Committee. Dr. J.S Soodan gave the Welcome Address. In his address, he welcomed the Guests and highlighted the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in building a united and harmonious India. Suresh Kumar Sharma

is JKPS, serving as SDPO in Basohli. He delivered a Power Point Presentation on the topic "Vigilance Awareness" with the theme "Culture of Integration for Nation's Unity". In his lecture, Suresh not only highlighted the purpose, importance, aspects and types of Vigilance but also discussed the various commissions and preventive measures taken by the Government of

India to curb malpractices like corruption. The lecture enlightened the students as well as the faculty members of the College about the importance of vigilance for the welfare of the nation.

In her address, Prof. (Dr.) Sangeeta Sudan, the Principal of the College, not only expressed her gratitude to Sh. Suresh (JKPS), the Guest of Honour, also congratulated the

Organizing Secretary, J.S Soodan for organising such a wonderful event. Moreover, she also highlighted the importance of Patel's vision of united India. A token of appreciation was also presented to the Guest of Honour by the Principal along with the faculty members.

The Programme was attended by more than 60 students. It was also attended by the faculty members- Dr. Mohinder Nath Sharma, Dr. Suresh, Nisha, Dr. Sapna, Dr. Rupalee, Dr. Nishu, Dr. Babli, Dr. Yograj, Dr. Anju Bala, Dr. Sohail, and Namita. The entire programme was hosted by Dr. Rupalee Jasrotia and the formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Sapna Devi.

## NCC Armed Units of GDC Kathua celebrated National Unity Day

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Oct 31: NCC Armed Units of Government Degree College Kathua organized various activities on the eve of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas under the guidance of Prof Seema Mir worthy principal of the college and under the supervision of Dr. Pinky, CTO 2 J&K NCC Girls Bn and Lt. (Dr.) Daya Ram, ANO 4 J&K NCC Bn of the College.

Prof. Seema Mir, Principal of the College said that Bharat Ratna Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is regarded as Unifier of India and



his relentless efforts in integrating princely states into a united and independent India have earned him a revered place in the history of India.

The events started with a Pledge taking ceremony in which all the cadets along with

various staff members took part with great enthusiasm. The Rashtriya Ekta Diwas pledge was administered in Hindi by Cadet Inderjeet and in English by Cadet Payal.

After the Pledge, a Unity Run was undertaken in the college

campus which was flagged off by the senior faculty members specifically by Prof. Sanjeev Gupta, Dr. R K Manhas and Dr. Yash Paul Sharma.

The Unity Run was followed by a Declamation activity which was held in the Smart room of the

college. Cadets namely Danisha Devi, Nitika, Diksha Sharma, Saloni Jasrotia and Ruby spoke on this occasion and highlighted Patel's vision for a united India and his relentless efforts in promoting national integrity. They discussed how his principles of cooperation and unity continue to inspire generations, encouraging everyone to work together for the nation's progress. The event served as a reminder of the values Patel stood for and the importance of fostering unity in today's diverse society.

## GGs College of Management and Technology holds intra-college poster competition

### Top News Report

JAMMU/ GIDDERBAHA, Oct 31: A poster competition was held within GGS College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha, as part of its intra-college activities. There were several students from the arts department who participated in this competition. The judges awarded Jhansi the first place, while Anmoldeep Singh and Amandeep Kaur secured the second place according to the results. Sakshi and Lovepreet Singh, who received third place in the competition, were

highly praised by the judges for their creativity and originality. There was a strong emphasis put forth by the head of the English department, Nancy Rani, on the importance of such activities. In addition to Dr. Amandeep Kaur Dhillon, Sukhwinder Kaur also spoke at the event.

There was a lot of appreciation expressed by both of them. Dr. R.K. Uppal, the principal of Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology, encouraged and congratulated the students as well as the organizers of the event during his speech.

## GDC Thannamandi celebrates National Unity Day

### Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Oct 31: Government Degree College Thannamandi commemorated National Unity Day, a day celebrated nationwide in honor of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the "Iron Man of India" who played a pivotal role in unifying the country.

Under the guidance of Principal Prof. Dr. Farooq Ahmed, the college organized a series of activities to inspire students and staff to embrace and strengthen the spirit of unity. The event commenced with a Unity Pledge, where the entire college community, including all faculty members, administrative staff, and students, collectively reaffirmed their commitment to national unity and integrity. Dr. Ashaq Malik, IQAC Coordinator in the College, addressed the gathering, underscoring

the importance of unity in diversity and the significance of Sardar Patel's legacy in shaping modern India.

As part of the observance, the NSS Unit of GDC Thannamandi organized an essay writing competition on the theme "The Role of Sardar Patel in Unifying India." Students enthusiastically participated, showcasing their understanding of Patel's visionary leadership and his efforts to integrate the princely states into a unified India. The competition provided students an opportunity to delve into Patel's contribution to India's history and reflect on its relevance in contemporary society. Principal Prof. Dr. Farooq Ahmed lauded the efforts of the NSS Unit for their initiative, encouraging the students to carry forward the values of unity, integrity, and patriotism demonstrated by Sardar Patel. The winners of the essay competition were awarded with certificates.

## Haryanvi language lagging due to government neglect: Dr. Ramniwas

### Top News Report

JAMMU/ HARYANA, Oct 31: In a special interview marking Haryana Day, Dr. Ramniwas 'Manav,' a leading scholar of Haryanvi and Hindi literature, highlighted the plight of the Haryanvi language.

He expressed disappointment over the lack of government initiatives to preserve and promote Haryanvi, despite the state's formation based on linguistic identity.

According to Dr. 'Manav,' the development of Haryanvi has primarily been due to individual efforts rather than any

significant contribution from the Haryana government or its academies.

Dr. 'Manav,' who has dedicated over fifty years to the research and preservation of Hindi and Haryanvi literature, emphasized that despite the potential of Haryanvi, it still lacks a standard form, a dedicated Sahitya Academy, and regular publications. In his view, this situation contrasts sharply with languages like Punjabi, which have achieved global recognition. He noted that Haryanvi's cultural impact once extended as far as South India, Nepal, and even parts of

Europe, but it now struggles to retain its identity within India.

Dr. 'Manav' criticized the Haryana Sahitya Academy's long-standing neglect of genuine literary talent, alleging that government-backed officials have promoted mediocrity through favoritism.

He accused these officials of misusing funds, awarding large sums to undeserving individuals, while sidelining authentic Haryanvi writers and scholars.

Commending recent efforts by the Haryana Literature and Culture Academy's Vice President Dr. Kuldeepchand Agnihotri and Director Dr. Dharmdev Vidy-

arthi, Dr. 'Manav' praised their focus on standardizing Haryanvi, establishing a Haryanvi Sahitya Academy, and launching a dedicated Haryanvi publication. He stressed that true Haryanvi literature should reflect the rich heritage of the language rather than being limited to stereotypical songs and jokes.

Dr. Ramniwas 'Manav,' author and editor of over sixty books, is celebrated for pioneering research in Hindi and Haryanvi literature and is known for his works, Haryanvi: Boli aur Sahitya and Haryanvi, both of which examine Haryanvi's cultural significance.

## From observing rituals to the joy of gifting, celebs tells us how they are celebrating Diwali this year...

Go cracker-free  
Shiwani Chakraborty  
I have such fond memories of celebrating Kali puja with my family during my childhood. Those gatherings were filled with warmth, love, and a deep sense of connection. We would perform the havan and then we would all sit together to enjoy the bhog. Diwali is truly about sharing and caring. But those explosive sounds haunt me every year. I truly hope for a safe and cracker-free celebration this year.

No noise please  
Monika Singh  
I want to celebrate Diwali without noise or air pollution. I support cracker-free Diwali. There are so many beautiful ways to enjoy the festival that are safe for both the environment and everyone around us. Diwali, for me, is about new beginnings, light overcoming darkness, and spending quality time with loved ones. I have decorated my home with diyas and rangoli, and will enjoy the festive dinner with family and friends. I love wearing traditional outfits. It adds to the festive spirit. I also indulge



in sweets like kaju katli, barfi, and savory snacks like chakli. When it comes to gifting, I prefer thoughtful, personalised presents.

Spreading colour  
Arshin Mehta  
As a child, I loved burning firecrackers on Diwali, but now I celebrate it in an eco-friendly way. It's about spending time with family and friends. We decorate the house, light diyas, and make a rangoli. If I'm not busy shooting, I go back to my hometown Nagar to celebrate with loved ones. I love dressing up in traditional

outfits. Diwali is also the perfect time to indulge in sweets—I try a bit of everything! I enjoy gifting sweets and decorations like diyas and rangoli colours.

Missing Chandigarh  
Anupama Solanki  
Diwali is my favourite festival. I love how every street and home shines and the sight of the sweets. I love to celebrate it in my hometown Chandigarh, but due to my busy shooting schedule in Mumbai, I couldn't go home this year. I'm completely against crackers. This year, I'm wearing a

saree. As for sweets, I love milk cake. My birthday is on November 2, so it's going to be a back-to-back celebrations.

Changing scenario  
Dipshikha Nagppal  
For me, Diwali is the time for happiness, lights, and of course, sweets! I remember when Diwali was about wearing new clothes and lighting diyas. Growing up in Gujarat, saying 'Saal Mubarak' was a cherished tradition. Nowadays, with families getting busier and gatherings becoming less frequent, the celebration

feels different. It's more about making reels and hanging out with friends. When it comes to crackers, I'm definitely not a fan; I still remember the time a rocket fell on my head and burnt my hair! But I love sweets, especially kaju katli and motichoor ladoos. While I try to be health-conscious, I allow myself a little indulgence during the festivities. As for gifting, I don't believe in the pressure of extravagant exchanges. I prefer giving meaningful gifts.

Dressed to kill  
Ravira Bhardwaj  
For me, Diwali symbolises light, warmth, and togetherness. As a child, I loved bursting crackers, but now I am all for eco-friendly Diwali. I enjoy dressing up in traditional outfits with an Indo-Western twist. When it comes to food, I indulge in both savory and sweet treats. Although I'm not a big fan of sweets, Diwali tempts me with delights like kaju katli and besan laddoo, along with savory options like samosas and chaklis. For gifting, I prefer thoughtful and personal items that resonate with my loved ones.

## I'm still here, have some great characters to look forward to: Bobby Deol on 30 years in films



It will be three decades in showbiz for Bobby Deol in 2025 and the actor says he is happy to still be around after all these years doing more work now than ever. 'Barsaat', his first film as a leading man, will turn 30 next October. Deol, who made his acting debut in veteran actor-father Dharmendra's 1977 movie 'Dharam Veer', said he has been "lost in the journey towards" where he has reached today. "When you're so involved in trying to

improve yourself and reach a goal, you forget how many years you spent.

"If you think about how many years you spent, then it kind of makes you feel 'Oh, I haven't achieved anything in so many years'," the 57-year-old told PTI.

One of the most popular faces in the late 1990s and early 2000s with titles such as 'Soldier', 'Gupt', 'Humraaz', and 'Ajnabee', Deol went through a dry spell before bouncing back with multi-starrers such

as 'Race 3' (2018) and 'Housefull 4' (2019).

Success of the Netflix feature film 'Class of 83' and Prakash Jha's MX Player web series 'Aashram' garnered critical acclaim for the actor during the pandemic.

Last year, the actor stole the limelight as the vicious mute antagonist Abrar in the action drama 'Animal', fronted by Ranbir Kapoor.

"It's great to know that I've spent 30 years and I'm still here. In my mind, I still think like a child. It's only when I see my kids, I realise 'Oh, I've become old,'" he added.

Deol is now set to make his south cinema debut with 'Kanguva', the Tamil film headlined by Suriya.

He is also working on separate projects with other south stars Vijay, Pawan Kalyan and Nandamuri Balakrishna.

"I'm doing more films in the south industry than I am doing in my own industry, which is great. I have some great characters to look forward to... God has been kind," he said.

'Kanguva', directed by Siva, is slated to be released worldwide on November 14.

## Actors are like horses, directors like jockeys: Rajpal Yadav

It is the director who controls an actor's performance, much like a jockey would rein in the horse, says Rajpal Yadav, who believes in adapting to the style of the filmmaker whenever he signs on a new project.

The actor, best known for his comedic roles in films such as 'Hungama', 'Mujhse Shaadi Karogi', 'Garam Masala', 'Chup Chup Ke', 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa', and 'Partner', is returning as the popular character Chhota Pandit in the third instalment of 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa'.

He first played the part in 2007's 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa', which was directed by his frequent collaborator Priyadarshan. He reprised the role in 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' (2022), helmed by Anees Bazmee with whom the actor had worked in 2015's 'Welcome Back'.

Asked to describe the filmmaking styles of Priyadarshan and Bazmee, Yadav said every director has their own point of view.

"Actors are like horses, directors are like jockeys. It's the jockey's mission to take the horse in the right direction. All horses are the same, but their gait changes once the jockey is around.

"Each director has their own interpretation and approach. That's what makes the films different. Whenever I work with two different directors, I try fitting well in both types of filmmaking styles. That's



my duty," the actor told agency. Yadav is happy to play Chhota Pandit in 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3'.

"He is more like a caricature. Whatever he does, it doesn't offend anybody. He always makes fun of himself, like an innocent fool. Chhota Pandit brings joy to people across ages," he added.

The actor is set to reunite with Priyadarshan in 'Bhoot Bangla'.

After 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3', he will next be seen in 'Baby John' and 'Welcome To The Jungle'.

## Surilie Gautam makes special panjeeri laddoos made with 20 ingredients

What's in a panjeeri laddoo? Well, if you listen to actress Surilie Gautam – health and happiness. Something that was born out of passion has now led to diversifying her profession. Juggling between her shoot schedules and kitchen, she has a super-busy festive season.

Made with 20 ingredients, much of it sourced from their farm in Himachal Pradesh, Surilie swears by the health benefits of her sweet treats.

"Anyone who knows me personally, knows pretty well that apart from acting, cooking has always been my passion. And with ongoing health concerns, especially pertaining to food, I thought what is it that I can contribute to people's life and health," shares Surilie. And,



thus, germinated the idea of panjeeri laddoos!

Her new venture also stemmed from personal experiences. After becoming a mother, Surilie realised the value

of nutrition, especially when the body undergoes a huge transformation. When her sister, Yami Gautam Dhar, was expecting, Surilie got to thinking, "Cooking has

always been my passion and for Yami, I wanted to make something delicious and nutritious to help her heal after delivery." Getting into research mode, she studied the benefits of different traditional ingredients and from where to source them. "I came up with these panjeeri laddoos made with 20 ingredients and dollops of love, which Yami loved," shared Surilie, as she flashed a broad smile.

Her preparation was a hit not just with her sister, but also other family members and she customised them to their needs as well as preferences. Encouraged by her family, she soon branched out taking orders from far and wide. "We have garnered phenomenal response, making it an even more special Diwali," said

Surilie, who apparently has been getting orders not just locally, Delhi or Mumbai, but also as far as Gujarat and Karnataka! "Through express delivery, we are able to send these to major metros within a day, but Bengaluru and Ahmedabad takes about two days."

With a shelf life of a month, these are priced at Rs 2,400 per kg. Surilie is also open to customising them. You can have gluten-free version or use desi khand or shakkar if you have any preferences. "And despite being inundated by orders, I make them myself. When I get overwhelmed with large volumes, Yami or my mother pitch in."

A show and a movie on the anvil, the Posti actress is currently enjoying the best of both worlds!

## Indian rapper Karma signs with Warner Music India

Karma, a Dehradun-based rapper, known for hit songs Goat Shit, featuring King, Bada, featuring KSHMR, and his recently released EP, How Much a Rhyme Costs?, has signed with Warner Music India. The partnership marks a significant milestone in Karma's journey as an artiste and will boost his prominent reputation in the Indian hip-hop scene. His last two EP releases have cumulatively raked in over 30 million streams across digital streaming platforms.

Karma shared his thoughts on the exciting new chapter, "I've always believed in pushing my boundaries

and collaborating with those who share the same vision of creative growth. With Warner Music India backing me and the power of its global network, I am getting a platform to share stories that resonate on a global scale. Their belief in my vision has allowed me to stay true to my roots while taking my art to places I never imagined. We understand it's about building culture, and now we have the tools to take my creativity to the next level."

With this new partnership, Karma is set to release a series of new projects that will showcase his versatility and creativity. Fans can look



forward to a dynamic range of music that

reflects Karma's unique voice and perspective.

## Jayati essays the negative lead in Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile

Zee TV is all set to unveil its new primetime show Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile, anchored around the intriguing Aata Saata marriage custom still prevalent across parts of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. This bold narrative takes an unconventional dive into the complex dynamics of relationships, driven by the love for family. The show explores whether love can flourish in a marriage born out of familial obligation.

The latest addition to the star-studded cast is none other than the veteran actress Jayati Bhatia, who will be playing the negative lead. Jayati Bhatia said,



"I'm thrilled to be a part of Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile. Buaji is a unique character who's tough on the outside but has her own layers of vulnerability. She'll always be seen as a good person playing a motherly character to Raghav, but actually has an ulterior motive, making her a negative character in the show.

Playing such a strong, unpredictable matriarch is a challenge I'm looking forward to it, especially with the way her story intertwines with the younger generation. What makes this role even more special for me is that I'm playing my own age on-screen after nearly 10 years."

## President Droupadi Murmu, PM Modi and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar extend Diwali greetings



NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar extended their greetings to the people on the occasion of Diwali on October 31. In a post on X President, Murmu wrote, "On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, I extend my warm greetings and good wishes to all Indians living in India and abroad."

President Murmu said that Diwali is a festival of happiness and enthusiasm, noting that the festival symbolises the victory of knowledge over ignorance and good over evil. "On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, we should illuminate our conscience, adopt virtues of love and compassion, and promote social harmony," she added. Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the people on the occasion of Diwali and wished everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous life. "Many happy wishes to the countrymen on Deepawali. On this divine festival of lights, I wish everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous life. May everyone prosper with the blessings of Maa Lakshmi and Lord Shri Ganesh," PM Modi said on X. Diwali is known as the 'Festival of Lights.' Diwali celebrates the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar also

extended Diwali greetings through a post on X. He wrote "On the auspicious occasion of Deepawali, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all fellow citizens of Bharat. Deepawali, celebrated with reverence and joy not only in Bharat but by our diaspora across the world, symbolises the timeless victory of light over darkness, hope over despair, and knowledge over ignorance." "May the light of Diwali guide us towards unity, prosperity, and progress. Let's embrace the spirit of hope, wisdom, and compassion, enriching our lives and communities. Wishing everyone a joyous and blessed Deepawali!" Dhankhar's post reads on X.

## Forces in and outside India trying to destabilise the country: PM Modi

Was addressing a gathering near the Statue of Unity after paying tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary

EKTA NAGAR, Oct 31 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said some forces in and outside India are trying to destabilise the country and spread anarchy to create a negative image of the nation in the world. He was addressing a gathering near the iconic Statue of Unity at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat's Narmada district after paying floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on the birth anniversary of India's first Home Minister. Since 2014, Sardar Patel's birth anniversary has been celebrated on October 31 as 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas', or National Unity Day. "Some forces in and outside India are trying to destabilise the country and spread anarchy to



create a negative image of the nation in the world. They are trying to divide the country on caste lines and are against a developed India," said the PM. He urged the people of the country to identify this nexus of "urban Naxals" which he said is

trying to break the country. "As Naxalism is ending in jungles, a new model of urban Naxals is raising its head. Today, urban Naxals target even those who say that you will remain safe if you remain united. We have to identify urban Naxals

and unmask them," he said. Though there were people who were skeptical of India's unification, Sardar Patel made it possible, said Modi, adding that the country will celebrate Patel's 150th birth anniversary for the next two years. "Our nation is moving towards implementation of 'one nation, one secular civil code' which will strengthen our country. We are trying to roll out the 'one nation, one election' initiative, which will strengthen our democracy," he said. "For the first time in 70 years, the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir has taken oath on the Constitution," he said, adding that due to the government's efforts in the past 10 years, Naxalism is on the decline in India.

## 6 killed in tempo-tractor collision in UP's Budaun

5 injured rushed to hospital

BUDAUN, Oct 31 (Agencies): Six people, including four of a family, were killed when a tempo they were travelling in was hit by a tractor in Mujaria area here on Thursday morning, police said. Five injured were rushed to the district hospital. The party was returning home to celebrate



Diwali. The victims, who worked as vegetable vendors in Noida, were travelling in a three-wheeled loader tempo which collided with a tractor-trolley. A speeding car then struck the loader, making the chance of an escape even narrower. Atul, 31, from Mirzapur; Kanhai, 35, from Bareil-

ly; his wife Kusum, 30; and their children, Kartik and Sheenu, aged eight and five; died in the collision, according to Budaun District Magistrate Nidhi Srivastav. The sixth deceased is yet to be identified, she said. A search is on for the tractor driver who fled after the incident.

## Continuous efforts being made to 'appropriate' Patel's legacy: Congress

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): The Congress on Thursday paid its tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary and alleged continuous efforts are being made to "appropriate" his legacy by those whose "ideological gurus" opposed the Quit India Movement and criticised the Constitution. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Respectful tributes to the Iron Man of India, the first Deputy Prime Minister of the country, former Congress President and our idol, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel ji, who made an independent India a complete country, on his birth anniversary." "Sardar Patel's personality and thoughts will always inspire the coming generations to serve the nation," he said on X. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and former Congress president Rahul Gandhi remembered Patel as the leader who tied the country together in a thread of unity and integrity. "His footprints that united India and established love and brotherhood in the country always guide us," Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X. Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera took a jibe at the RSS while paying his tributes. "Sardar Patel kept the Sanghis under control, so today all the Sanghis are also forced to bow before this lifelong Congressman. A few years ago, these same Sanghis used to print and distribute books against Sardar



Saheb," Khera said on X. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh hailed him as a pivotal figure in the freedom movement and shaping the creation of post-1947 India. "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is an immortal part of the nation's history. He was also a stalwart Congressman. Continuous efforts are being made to (mis)appropriate his legacy by those whose ideological gurus opposed the Quit India Movement in which the Sardar was jailed for almost three years and who criticised the Constitution, a key committee of which was chaired by the Sardar later," Ramesh said in a post on X. "This only exposes the insecurities and hypocrisy of the (mis)appropriators," he added. Ramesh said it was Jawaharlal Nehru who inaugurated a bronze bust of Patel in Godhra on February 13, 1949. An inscription below the bust also bears out this fact, he said. The bust had been installed by local Con-

gressmen in Godhra, because this is where the Sardar had started his legal practice, he said. "Nehru had come to Godhra after laying the foundation for the educational township Vallabh Vidya Nagar near Anand - named of course after Sardar Patel. At Godhra, Nehru spoke of how averse he was to the unveiling of statues, especially for living personalities - but that he had made an exception in the case of Sardar Patel, because they were the closest of colleagues and because of the Sardar's unique contributions to the making of Independent India," Ramesh said. "This is among the very few, if not the only, busts of Sardar Patel erected when he was alive," he said. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in a post on X gave her tributes to "one of the architects of modern India." "From India's freedom struggle to the creation of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel ji's contribution is an example of service and dedication towards the country," she said. The Congress, on its official X handle, said Patel will always continue to inspire the people of the country. Born in Nadiad, Gujarat, in 1875, Patel was a pivotal figure in India's struggle for Independence. Renowned for his exceptional leadership and unyielding commitment to national integration, he is fondly remembered as the "Iron Man of India." He died in 1950.

## 'Your sacrifice will inspire us', Congress pays tributes to Indira



NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): The Congress paid tributes on Thursday to former prime minister Indira Gandhi on her death anniversary, with party leader Rahul Gandhi saying her sacrifice for the country's unity and integrity will always "inspire us all on the path of public service." The then prime minister was assassinated by her bodyguards here on this day in 1984. Indira Gandhi was India's first woman prime minister. She was born on November 19, 1917. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi paid floral tributes to Indira Gandhi at the Shakti Sthal here and also visited the former prime minister's memorial on 1, Safdarjung Road. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also paid rich tributes to her and shared a quote of the former prime minister on serving the country till her last breath. "Humble tributes to

India's first woman prime minister and our ideal, Indira Gandhi ji, on her martyrdom day," he said. Kharge said Indira Gandhi played an important role in maintaining India's unity and integrity, and in building a strong and progressive India with her strong will, efficient leadership and foresight. In a post in Hindi on X, Rahul Gandhi said, "Pandiiji's Indu, Bapu's Priyadarshini, fearless, justice-loving -- Indira of India!" "Grandma, your sacrifice for the unity and integrity of the country will always inspire us all on the path of public service," he said and shared a video montage on the contributions of Indira Gandhi. Congress general secretary and Indira Gandhi's granddaughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, "Your dedication to the country, your sacrifice; the lessons learnt from you and the values you imparted will always

be our guide. Salute to your martyrdom." Congress' general secretary organisation KC Venugopal said, "Remembering the supreme sacrifice made by Smt. Indira Gandhi ji, our stalwart PM who gave up her life for the unity and integrity of India." She stood up to all kinds of forces that threatened our national interest, be it enemies across the border or those that brought extremist elements into our society, he said on X. "Her tenure transformed the life of every single Indian, her contributions have stood the test of time and she is fondly remembered across the country even today," Venugopal added. On its official X handle, the Congress said, "India's first woman Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi is an example of strength, dedication, courage and powerful leadership." "Hundreds of salutations on the death anniversary of Indira Gandhi ji who gave her all for the unity and integrity of the country," the party said. Several other Congress leaders also paid homage to Indira Gandhi.

## Banned Yaba tablets worth Rs 10 crore seized in Assam, two held

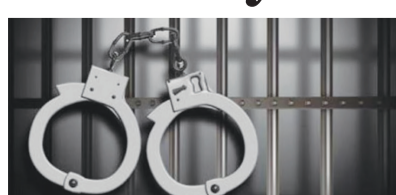
DIPHU, Oct 31 (Agencies): Two persons from Manipur were arrested after Yaba tablets, a narcotics substance, valued at Rs 10 crore, were recovered from their possession in Assam's Karbi Anglong district, police said on Thursday. The arrests and recovery were made

during a routine checking exercise in Dillai Tiniali area on Wednesday evening. "Our team searched a vehicle and recovered 25 bundles of Yaba tablets kept in a hidden chamber," the official said. The bundles comprise 50,000 tablets, which are valued at approximately Rs 10

crore, he said. A couple from Manipur, who was in the vehicle, was arrested, he added. Yaba tablets are illegal in India as these contain methamphetamine, a Schedule II substance under the Controlled Substances Act.

## Palghar man held for killing wife over suspicion of infidelity

PALGHAR, Oct 31 (Agencies): Police in Maharashtra's Palghar district have arrested a 30-year-old man who allegedly killed his wife suspecting that she was not faithful to him, an official said on Thursday. Accused Swapnil Tawre, a resident of the Naringi locality in the



Virar area recently slit the throat of his wife Roshni (28) and strangled her.

The couple has a five-year-old child, the official said. Quoting the complaint by Roshni's father, the official said this was the victim's second marriage, following a mutual separation from her first. Swapnil suspected Roshni of infidelity, the official added.

## Man arrested for raping speech-impaired woman in WB

KOLKATA, Oct 31 (Agencies): A man has been arrested for allegedly raping a 40-year-old speech-impaired woman with mental health challenges in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, police confirmed on Thursday. According to a senior police officer, the accused was apprehended on Wednesday after the victim's family members caught him and

handed him over to the authorities. The family members of the woman alleged that the man had lured her to an abandoned house in Kultali after she stepped out of her home and then raped her. Following the arrest, the accused was produced before a local court, which remanded him to 14 days in judicial custody. One of the woman's family mem-

bers claimed that a local panchayat member had offered Rs 2 lakh as compensation to settle the case, but the offer was refused. Earlier in October, Kultali and nearby Joynagar experienced unrest after the alleged abduction, rape, and murder of a nine-year-old girl. Her body was discovered just hours after she was reported missing.

## North Korea ICBM launch intended as message to 'rivals,' Kim says

The North Korean leader said the test was an "appropriate" action.

SEOUL, Oct 31 (Agencies): A North Korean intercontinental ballistic missile launch was intended as a message to "rivals" who have "escalated" regional tensions, according to a statement issued by leader Kim Jong Un.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile was fired from the Pyongyang area at around 7:10 a.m. local time Thursday. The projectile landed in the East Sea, also known as the Sea of Japan.

The weapon, the JCS said, was believed to be a long-range ballistic missile launched at a high angle. Seoul's military was "maintaining a full readiness posture" while coordinating with American and Japanese authorities, the JCS added.

In a statement carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency, Kim said the "test-fire" was "an appropriate military action" addressed to "rivals, who have intentionally escalated the regional situation and posed a threat to the security of our republic recently."

"It also constitutes an indispensable process in the course of constantly develop-



ing our state's strategic attack forces," he added. KCNA said Kim was present at the launch.

Citing security concerns and "ever-aggravating prospective threats and challenges" from adversaries, Kim declared that Pyongyang "will never change its line of bolstering up its nuclear forces."

White House National Security Council spokesperson Sean Savett said the U.S. "strongly condemns" the ICBM test.

Regional American forces assessed that the launch "did not pose an immediate threat to U.S. personnel, or territory, or to our allies" but did further raise tensions in the region, Savett added.

"This launch is a flagrant violation of multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions," Savett said.

"The national security team is closely coordinating with our allies and partners," he added. "The United States will take all necessary measures to ensure the security of the American homeland and Republic of Korea and Japanese allies."

The launch came shortly after Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met with South Korean counterpart Yong-hyun, who warned there was a "high chance" that Pyongyang may try to "exaggerate their existence" before and after the U.S. presidential election via missile or nuclear tests. It also comes amid grow-

ing tensions related to North Korea's deployment of thousands of troops to Russia in aid of President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine.

Austin said Pyongyang's "actions have consequences, as all actions have consequences."

"Ukrainian soldiers have the right to defend themselves, and they will do that with the weapons that we provided and others have provided," Austin said. "That's to be expected."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said this week Kyiv expects 12,000 North Korean soldiers to eventually be sent to Russia, while South Korean officials have estimated that around 10,900 will be deployed by December.

The Pentagon said this week that Pyongyang has sent around 10,000 North Korean soldiers to Russia for training.

Austin said Wednesday the U.S. is seeing advanced groups "outfitted with Russian uniforms and provided with Russian equipment," adding he was "increasingly concerned" that the Kremlin plans to use these North Korean soldiers to support Russia's combat operations in Russia's Kursk region."

## Spain searches for bodies after flood of the century claims at least 95 lives

BARRIO DE LA TORRE, Oct 31 (Agencies): Survivors of the worst natural disaster to hit Spain this century awoke to scenes of devastation on Thursday after villages were wiped out by monstrous flash floods that claimed at least 95 lives. The death toll could rise as search efforts continue with an unknown number of people still missing.

The aftermath looked eerily similar to the damage left by a strong hurricane or tsunami.

Wrecked vehicles, tree branches, downed power lines and household items all mired in a layer of mud covered the streets of Barrio de la Torre, a suburb of Valencia, just one of dozens of damaged localities in the hard-hit region of Valencia, where 92 people died between late Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Walls of rushing water turned narrow streets into death traps and spawned rivers that ripped into the ground floors of homes and swept away cars, people and anything else in its path.

"The neighborhood is destroyed, all the cars are on top of each other, it's literally smashed up," said Christian Viena, a bar owner in Barrio de la Torre.

Regional authorities said late Wednesday it appeared there was no one left stranded on rooftops or in cars in need of rescue after helicopters had saved some 70 people. But ground crews and citizens continued to inspect vehicles and homes that were damaged by the onslaught of water. Over a thousand soldiers from Spain's emergency rescue units joined regional and local emergency workers in the search for bodies and survivors. The defense minister said that soldiers alone

had recovered 22 bodies and rescued 110 people by Wednesday night.

"We are searching house by house," Ángel Martínez, official of a military emergency unit, told Spain's national radio broadcaster RNE on Thursday from the town of Utiel, where at least six people died.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez is heading to the region to witness the destruction firsthand as the nation starts a three-day period of official mourning.

Thousands of people were left without water and electricity and hundreds were stranded after their cars were wrecked or roads were blocked. The region remained partly isolated with several roads cut off and train lines interrupted, including the high-speed service to Madrid, which officials say won't be repaired for several days. While Valencia took the brunt of the storm, another two casualties were reported in the neighboring Castilla La Mancha region. Southern Andalusia reported one death.

The relative calm of the day after has also given time to reflect and question if authorities could have done more to save lives. The regional government is being criticized for not sending out flood warnings to people's mobile phones until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, when the flooding had already started in some parts.

Spain's Mediterranean coast is used to autumn storms that can cause flooding. But this was the most powerful flash flood event in recent memory. Scientists link it to climate change, which is also behind increasingly high temperatures and droughts in Spain and the heating up of the Mediterranean Sea.

## At least 14 killed in long-running land dispute between rebel clans in southern Philippines

COTABATO, Oct 31 (Agencies): At least 14 people were killed in a long-seething land dispute involving two Muslim guerrilla commanders and their followers in a southern Philippine town, military and civilian officials said Thursday.

The fighting erupted Wednesday between the two commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in a village in Pagalungan town in Maguindanao del Sur province but a truce has since been forged by the military, police and leaders of the rebel front.

The fighting was set off by a long-running land dispute between the clans of the two rebel commanders and was not directly related to the Muslim insurgency.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front was the largest Muslim separatist armed group in the southern Philippines, homeland of minority Muslims in the largely Roman Catholic nation, until it signed a peace deal with the government in 2014 when it dropped its separatist goal and agreed to a better-funded Muslim autonomous region

called Bangsamoro in the volatile south.

The six-province Muslim region is now governed by former rebel leaders in a transition arrangement prior to regular elections in May next year.

Thousands of guerrillas belonging to the rebel front, however, were still holding on to their firearms while awaiting amnesty and livelihood packages from the government under the peace deal.

Pagalungan town Vice Mayor Abdillah Mamasabulod said a long-running feud over a vast farmland involving two clans led by commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front erupted anew into fierce fighting Wednesday afternoon in the village of Kilangan.

"They have been fighting over ownership of about 290 hectares (716 acres) of agricultural land," Mamasabulod told reporters and renewed a call for the warring clans to settle their dispute peacefully through government and rebel mediators.

Mamasabulod cited witnesses as saying that up to 19 people were killed in the spo-

radic fighting and scores were wounded before a cease-fire was forged.

Army Lt. Col. Roden Orbon, spokesperson of the 6th Infantry Division, however, said at least 14 people were killed in the intermittent clashes in the village, where government forces were deployed to secure civilian villagers. Troops recovered five assault rifles at the scene of the fighting.

"The military and police are continuously conducting monitoring in all nearby hospitals and coordinating with the leadership of both warring groups to identify the still unidentified bodies," Orbon said.

Dozens of villagers who fled at the height of the fighting were returning to their communities, he said.

The fighting is the latest reminder of the complex security problems that have long hounded the southern Philippines, which has bountiful resources and potential but has long been hamstrung by stark poverty, weak law enforcement, a large number of unlicensed firearms and an array of insurgents and outlaws.

## Singapore's affluent veneer hides repression and corruption, says son of its modern-day founder

LONDON, Oct 31 (Agencies): Singapore has become much more repressive, and corruption in the Asian financial hub has worsened in the decade since the death of former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, according to his youngest son who fled to Britain to seek asylum from what he described as a campaign of persecution to silence him.

Lee Hsien Yang, who has been granted political refugee status in the U.K., told agency that Singaporean authorities have "weaponized" the country's laws against critics and that he is just the most prominent example of a growing number of Singaporeans fleeing abroad to seek protection from their own government.

Lee cited a tightening of laws on security and rights of assembly and a sharp increase in the number of asylum-seekers from the city-state over the past decade under the rule of his estranged brother, Lee Hsien Loong, who was prime minister until he stepped down earlier this year.

"Singapore has this veneer that purports to be a sort of affluent, democratic, free country. The veneer is quite thin," he said in an interview in London on Monday. "Beneath that there is a repressive nature to that regime and there are people fleeing from it."

The Singapore government reacted strongly Thursday, accusing Lee of turning a "personal vendetta into an international smear campaign against his father, his family and his country."

It said Lee had alleged in his asylum application that he and his family were being persecuted by the Singapore government to prevent his son, Li Shengwu, from becoming prime minister.

"That he would go so far as to allege this — though his son has repeatedly said he has no such ambition — shows his campaign against Singapore is not based on principles," it said.

Lee announced last week that he was forced to seek asylum from what he called unfounded criminal proceedings, defamation and surveillance against him and his wife by Singaporean authorities led by his brother.

Human Rights Watch says Singapore silenced dissenting voices in its recent elections and voiced concern over aggressive enforcement of a sweeping "online falsehoods" law that it said allows officials to censor online content.

The Lee brothers have been at odds since they fell out over the will of their late father.

Lee Kuan Yew, who died in 2015, was both feared for his authoritarian tactics and admired worldwide for turning the city-state into one of the world's richest nations. He stepped aside from power in 1990 but remained influential behind the scenes for many years afterward.

Officials have accused Lee Hsien Yang and his wife of lying under oath and providing false evidence regarding his father's will. Lee said his son was prosecuted for criticizing the judiciary in a Facebook post. Lee himself lost a defamation suit last year and was ordered to pay damages to two government ministers whom he indicated were corrupt over their rental of state-owned properties. He said last month he has paid the amount, so that the family home under his name will not be seized.

Lee called the actions against him "bogus, abusive and unwarranted," and said the campaign of persecution escalated after he joined Singapore's opposition party in 2020. Lee said he and his wife left hurriedly in June 2022 and decided to apply for political asylum in the U.K. because they believed they needed protection.

"Many people claim this is a family feud. Well, the actions taken against me were taken by the organs of the state," he said.

"In a tightly controlled country like Singapore, where my brother was the prime minister and holds the levers of power, there's no way these things happen without his knowledge, his consent and his agreement," he added.

Lee further alleged that Singapore's banks and companies have been linked to growing numbers of international money laundering and corruption scandals in recent years.

Last year Singaporean authorities seized

\$1.75 billion in assets including gold bars, bottles of alcohol, luxury cars and properties and arrested nine Chinese nationals in a massive money laundering case involving funds raised by illegal means abroad.

Lee cited other examples including the involvement of Singaporean banks in the Malaysian state development fund 1MDB corruption scandal, and two Singapore government-linked companies operating in Brazil's oil and gas industry that were allegedly implicated in Brazil's sweeping "Operation Car Wash" anti-corruption investigation.

Lee said the cases and growing repression showed that his city has deteriorated — though he also acknowledged the lack of political freedoms was a holdover from his father's decadeslong leadership, during which the resource-poor former British colony transformed into a prosperous financial hub with low crime and almost zero corruption.

"Singapore has retained legislation and punishments which come from a different day and age," he said. "My father was a product of that day and age, but I think if he were alive today some of those things could well have changed."

Human Rights Watch said last year that Singapore carried out the highest number of executions for drug-related offenses in over a decade. The Singapore government said all of the examples of alleged corruption cited by Lee have been thoroughly addressed, either through the courts or in Parliament. It said Singapore hasn't wavered in its anti-corruption stance, pointing to the country's high standing in international perceptions of corruption and its recent indictment of a former Cabinet minister on graft charges and robust controls to detect, deter and prosecute financial crimes.

It called Lee "a major beneficiary of the Singapore system" and noted he had freely participated in politics by joining an opposition party during the 2020 elections.

Lee "is not a victim of persecution. He and his wife remain citizens. They are and have always been free to return to Singapore," the government said.

## For first time, Diwali will be official holiday for New York City schools this year

NEW YORK, Oct 31 (Agencies): In a historic move, Diwali will be celebrated as an official school holiday in New York City, enabling over 1.1 million students to observe the festival of lights.

Diwali has been declared a school holiday for New York City public schools beginning this year.

Last year, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation making Diwali a school holiday for the city's public schools.

New York City schools will remain closed on November 1 in celebration of Diwali.

Deputy Commissioner for New York City's Mayor's Office for International Affairs Dilip Chauhan said Diwali being celebrated as an official school holiday in New York City for the first time is a milestone that celebrates our city's diversity and the tireless efforts of our community and leaders".

With 1.1 million students now able to observe this day, Diwali

becomes a true symbol of unity, a celebration of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance, Chauhan told agency.

He said that for the diaspora, this holiday holds deep meaning, bringing families, friends, and neighbours together in peace and joy, strengthening the bonds that make New York one of the world's most inclusive cities.

Of course, there were challenges, especially balancing the required instructional days.

We had to make thoughtful adjustments to ensure all communities felt respected and supported, he said.

Underscoring that Diwali reminds us of the unique diversity in the city, Chauhan said the festival speaks to our shared values of harmony and connection.

This holiday unites us, fostering a stronger, more inclusive city, a city that thrives on every voice.

Diwali celebrations have begun across the city and country

with several community organisations commemorating the festival through special events.

The iconic Empire State Building in the city was illuminated in hues of orange to celebrate Diwali.

Leading diaspora organisation The Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) New York-New Jersey-Connecticut-New England in partnership with Empire State Realty commemorated Diwali by illuminating the Empire State Building.

## Manhunt under way in Berlin after bag of explosives left at train station



BERLIN, Oct 31 (Agencies): The German police are searching for a man who abandoned a bag of explosives at a Berlin train station and ran away after being stopped by federal officers, according to police.

"We are investigating all possibilities," a police spokesperson told agency on Thursday, adding that authorities had not yet been able to identify the suspect.

Police said they stopped the man in the German capital's

Neukoelln station on Wednesday afternoon. He fled the scene and explosives were found in the bag he left behind, according to a post on social media platform X.

The bag was brought to a nearby parking facility where a controlled explosion took place, the post said.

The Bild newspaper reported that the bag had contained triacetone triperoxide, an unstable white explosive powder known as TATP and often used in extremist attacks on the public.



## DSS J&K celebrates Deepawali Festival with enthusiasm

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 31: Today the 31st of Oct. Dogra Sadar Sabha J&K under the guidance of its esteemed President and former Minister Gulchain Singh Charak celebrated the vibrant festival of Deepawali with great joy, unity, and enthusiasm at Sabha Bhawan Dogra Hall Jammu.

The event was marked by Pooja Archana with traditional rituals, and gatherings that brought together members of the sabha to celebrate the Festival of Lights in a spirit of togetherness.

This year's celebration focused on both tradition and environmental friendly. Festivities

began with the lighting of diyas and a prayer ceremony, promoting peace, prosperity, and harmony among all residents of this Dugger Pardesh. Speaking on the occasion Charak wished every one a safe and prosperous Deepawali.

He emphasized the significance of Diwali as a time to strengthen bonds, share happiness, and renew community spirit.

"Deepawali is a celebration of light over darkness, wisdom over ignorance, and love over hatred. Our community strives to embody these values not only during this festival but through out the year," said the Former Minister.

Extending warmest Deepawali greetings to all those present on the occasion, he further stated that Deepawali is a occasion for reflection, gratitude and renewal. It brings families and friends together, fostering bonds and creating lasting memories.

The event concluded with lightening of candles and distribution of sweets.

Prominent among those present in the celebrations were Col. Karan Singh, Gambhir Dev Singh Charak, Narinder Singh Jamwal, Balwinder Singh, Ravi Singh, Rajinder Gupta, Naresh Sharma, Vidya Sagar Sharma and Others.

## Vivek Bali extends heart-felt Diwali greetings

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 31: Vivek Bali Prominent Political Leader has extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Diwali.

In his message, Bali emphasized the significance of Diwali as a festival that brings light, joy, and positivity, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil and hope over despair.

"Diwali is a time to spread love, kindness, and happiness. Let us all come together to celebrate the festival in a way that brings peace, prosperity, and unity to

our society," said Bali. He encouraged everyone to embrace the spirit of Diwali by supporting those in need and sharing joy with family and friends.

Bali also emphasized the importance of safety during the celebrations and urged people to celebrate responsibly. "Let us keep our environment clean and make this Diwali eco-friendly for a healthier tomorrow."

Vivek Bali wished everyone a joyful and prosperous Diwali, filled with harmony and goodwill.

## Restoration of Full Statehood will be the true atmosphere of celebration: Shiv Sena



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 31: Expressing his views on the Jammu and Kashmir administration's celebration of UT Foundation Day, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni stated that celebrating the demotion to Union Territory status is beyond comprehension.

During a program at the party's state central office, state leaders extended their greetings on National Unity

Day and Diwali and paid tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary.

Speaking to the media, Sahni emphasized that celebrations are meant for advancements, not setbacks. Jammu and Kashmir was downgraded to a Union Territory after the removal of state status, a designation that was promised to be temporary. He reminded the Modi government that, despite the passage of

six years, no progress has been made toward restoring statehood, despite the completion of assembly elections and government formation.

Sahni pointed out that former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had proposed the restoration of statehood in the first cabinet meeting, a proposal to which Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had also agreed. However, no positive response has come from the central government. He urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to prioritize fulfilling his promises to Jammu and Kashmir over election campaigns and restore the statehood status.

According to Sahni, restoring full statehood would bring a truly celebratory atmosphere to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Will continue to observe Oct 31 as 'black day' till special powers of J-K not restored: Mehbooba Mufti



### Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Oct 31 (Agencies): People's Democratic Party (PDP) Chief Mehbooba Mufti said on Thursday that her party would continue to observe the Union Territory (UT) Foundation Day as a black day till the special powers of the erstwhile state were not restored.

"... I want to tell Governor Sahab that for Jammu and Kashmir and especially for the PDP, today is a black day. We will continue to observe it as a black day until the special powers of Jammu and Kashmir are not restored," Mehbooba Mufti told report-

ers in Anantnag.

"I've said this earlier too that J&K has become a laboratory for BJP... They want to give a message to the minority in the country..." Mehbooba Mufti added.

Earlier in the day, J&K LG Manoj Sinha questioned Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and other National Conference (NC) leaders for not attending the sixth Union UT Foundation Day celebrations on Thursday.

In his statement, Sinha underlined the significance of observing UT Day, noting that J&K's current status as a Union Territory is a

reality.

"This is not the first time we are celebrating this day. The elections in JK just finished a few days back... Everyone cannot come to attend the event but Jammu and Kashmir is a Union Territory as of date and we will have to accept this fact. PM Modi and Union HM Amit Shah also said the delimitation first, Assembly elections second and then statehood at an appropriate time. When PM Modi came here on Yoga Day, he said that Assembly elections will be conducted soon and then the status of statehood will be given to J&K," Sinha said.

## Celebrating Union Territory's foundation day 'humiliation' for people of J-K: CPI(M)'s Tarigami

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 31 (Agencies): Senior CPI(M) leader and Kulgam MLA M Y Tarigami Thursday said celebrating the Union Territory's foundation day was a "humiliation" for the people of Jammu and Kashmir as "downgrading" the state was "unprecedented" and an "assault" on the Constitution of the country.

"The humiliation of the people of J-K is being celebrated by the rulers and some bureaucrats are applauding it. This is unfortunate," Tarigami told PTI.

Valley-based mainstream political parties skipped the event and criticised the LG administration for celebrating the Union Territory's foundation day.

Tarigami also hit out at LG Manoj Sinha fol-

lowing his remarks that skipping the celebrations by the MLAs showed their "dual character".

He said the Supreme Court has mentioned in its verdict that the UT status is temporary, and statehood must be restored as early as possible.

"LG sahab must try to look at it and the prime minister, home minister and others who hold the command of the country are on record that this is a temporary status and statehood will be restored," Tarigami added.

The ruling National Conference had Wednesday said it would stay away from the UT foundation day celebrations as it does not accept the status and wants restoration of statehood at the earliest.

## President SKUAST-TAJ Dr. Vikas Sharma and other teachers felicitate Prof. B. C. Sharma on his superannuation

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 31: SKUAST-Teaching Association Jammu (SKUAST-TAJ) felicitates Professor B.C. Sharma on his superannuation after rendering distinguished services of 40 years. Dr. Vikas Sharma President Teaching Association while listing Dr. B. C. Sharma's achievements as a teacher, researcher and contributions in the discipline of Extension Education, wished him a healthy / prosperous post retired life. Director Research SKUAST-Jammu Dr. SK Gupta informed that Dr. B. C.



Sharma proved himself, a very enthusiastic and dynamic administrator during his tenure as Dean, Faculty of Agriculture

The office bearers of teaching association - Dr. Devinder Sharma-Publicity Secretary, Dr. Rajeev Bharat-Treasurer, Dr. Poonam Parihar-

Executive Member, Dr. Mahinder Singh-Professor Agrometrology, Mr. Divyansh Verma, Mr. Tej Pratap Singh - Student representatives while appreciating Dr. B. C. Sharma's contributions in research and extension selflessly wished him a very healthy post-retired life.

## Medical patrol organised for Gujjar And Bakkarwals at Sarsoti

### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Oct 31: The Indian Army conducted a successful mobile medical patrol in remote villages of Sarsoti Rajouri district, providing essential healthcare services to the Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities. The medical patrol addressed the long-standing healthcare disparities faced by these com-

munities due to their isolated locations and challenging terrain.

The initiative offered on-the-spot medical care, including basic health check-ups, treatment of common ailments, and distribution of necessary medications. Preventive healthcare measures, such as immunizations and guidance on hygiene, nutrition, and dis-

ease prevention, were also provided. This humanitarian initiative benefited 27 villagers.

The Indian Army's efforts have been widely appreciated by the local population, who expressed deep gratitude for bringing much-needed medical services directly to their doorsteps. This outreach has strengthened ties between the Indian Army and local communities, fostering

trust, goodwill, and community cohesion.

The Indian Army remains committed to ensuring the welfare and security of the people in Rajouri district. This medical patrol demonstrates their dedication to improving the lives of marginalized communities, underscoring their role as a force for good beyond their primary responsibilities.

## FROM PAGE 1

## People vote without discrimination for first time in J&K: PM Modi

numerous challenges to national unity and sovereignty.

He sent a strong message to those threatening the country's peace, stating, "Today, terrorists know that if they attack, India will not spare them."

## CM Omar Abdullah wishes people on Diwali

our lives with good health, happiness & success. #FestivalOfLights," Omar said in a post on X. Buy vitamins and supplements Diwali, or Deepawali, is the festival of lights. It is being celebrated today.

## Disengagement process in certain areas along LAC "Almost Complete": Rajnath Singh

complete. Our efforts will be to take the matter beyond disengagement; but for that, we will have to wait a little longer," he added.

Singh, who could not travel to Tawang due to inclement weather, virtually inaugurated the statue of Patel and the museum from Tezpur in Assam's Sonitpur district.

The Defence minister recognised Major Bob Khathing's crucial role in establishing Indian administration up to McMahon Line in February 1951, highlighting Tawang's strategic significance.

"Major Khathing not only led the peaceful integration of Tawang into India but also

established essential military and security frameworks, including the Sashstra Seema Bal, Nagaland Armed Police, and the Naga Regiment. The 'Museum of Valour' now stands as a tribute to his bravery and foresight, inspiring generations to come," he said.

Singh commended the Indian Army and local communities for their initiative in creating the museum.

Singh paid glowing tributes to Sardar Patel, acknowledging his instrumental role in unifying over 560 princely states post-independence, a feat that stands as a testament to his indomitable resolve and commitment to a unified India.

"This statue 'Desh Ka Vallabh' will inspire people reminding them of the strength in unity and the unwavering spirit required to build a nation as diverse as ours," he said.

The Defence minister underscored the significance of unity and harmony, and the North-East's unique role in the nation's identity. He reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of ensuring economic and infrastructure development of the entire region.

"Holistic development of the nation is possible only when the North East prospers. We will create such a North East which is strong and prosperous not only naturally and culturally but also economically," he added.

Singh also highlighted the crucial role of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in the progress of the region. He made special mention of the Sela tunnel linking Assam and Tawang, a project which enhances connectivity across Northeast regions.

"In the times to come, the Arunachal Frontier Highway project will play a major role in connecting the entire North East region, especially the border areas. This 2,000-km long highway will prove to be an important strategic and economic asset for the region

as well as the entire nation," he said.

Singh further commended the Armed Forces' engagement in the region, from NCC initiatives and local economic support to crucial disaster relief efforts.

"Armed Forces not only provide security but also become a medium for development in that region by cooperating with the people of the border areas. This further strengthens India's commitment to ensuring development, peace, and security in the Northeast," he said.

Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt Gen KT Parnaik (Retd), Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, GOC-in C Eastern Command Lt Gen RC Tewari, 4 Corps GOC Lt Gen Gambhir Singh and other senior civil and military officials attended the event at Tawang.

After inaugurating the statue and museum virtually from Tezpur, the Defence minister returned to the national capital on Thursday, winding up his two-day visit to Gajraj Corps headquarters at Tezpur, an official spokesperson said.

Singh, whose tour was originally scheduled for Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang, could not visit the border state due to inclement weather, the Defence spokesperson added.

"The Defence minister has returned to New Delhi by an Indian Air Force flight at around 11 am," he said.

## J&K a UT, everyone must accept this reality: LG Sinha

time. At present, J&K is a UT and everyone must accept this reality. When J&K becomes a State again, we will celebrate that day as well," the LG said. He said

today, the fifth anniversary of J&K as a UT was celebrated.

He was replying to a query that the National Conference had decided to stay away from UT Day foundation function. Pertinently, NC leader and MLA from Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq had yesterday told reporters in Srinagar that nobody from NC would attend the UT Day function at SKICC as NC doesn't accept J&K as a UT.

In an obvious reference to NC leaders, including Chief Minister and Cabinet ministers, LG said: "It was unfortunate that those who took oath under Indian constitution are opposing UT status of J&K. This reflects their dual character."

He said that Panchayat polls couldn't be held due to delay in reservation of backward classes and that the J&K administration is committed to hold Panchayat polls as soon as possible. The LG said that under the leadership of PM Modi, J&K touched new heights of developments and peace. "The development is visible from roads to train to hospitals to medical colleges. The outside investment will soon touch from Rs 20,000 Cr to Rs one lakh Crore," the LG attended.

He said that J&K bank was pulled out from the debt and today this bank is a profit earning institution that gives loans to everyone in need. "Today it is a people's bank. The progress bank is the example of a change J&K has gone through in the past few years," the LG said.

He said in the past five years, J&K marched ahead with peace and prosperity. "Lal Chowk's identity was changed and today it is known for something else. Pulwama Chowk witnesses anti-terrorist protests and candle light marches," the LG said.

He said post 2019, the air has changed. "In the past few days, some terrorist inci-

dents took place where brave men lost their lives. But I believe that J&K police and other forces will give the perpetrators a befitting reply," he said. "Efforts are on to root out the terrorism from J&K. Time is not far when J&K would be free from terror."

He said peace is a must for J&K's progress. Without naming anyone, he said some people are trying to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere. "I request them, refrain from provocative statements as it was after huge efforts that J&K is a peaceful place today," the LG said.

## Indian, Chinese troops exchange sweets at several Border Points on Diwali

patrolling modalities were to be decided between ground commanders, the source said then.

"Talks will continue at the local commander level," the Army source added.

## Air Marshal Pankaj Mohan Sinha visits AFS in Ladakh, celebrates Diwali with air warriors

forces personnel and honoring their dedication.

## Stringent Vehicle Guidelines for Civil Secretariat ahead of Legislative Session

departments to ensure compliance. The measures come as part of heightened security efforts to facilitate a safe and efficient environment for the assembly proceedings.

## Suzuki partners with Toyota for 1st electric SUV; launch next year

CHANDIGARH, Oct 31 (Agencies): The Suzuki Motor Corporation and Toyota Motor Corporation have decided to further strengthen collaboration in the supply of a battery electric vehicle (BEV) SUV model.

The fully electric model is scheduled to be manufactured at Suzuki Motor plant in Gujarat from the spring of 2025, and will be supplied to Toyota. "Suzuki will supply our first BEV to Toyota globally. While continuing to be competitors, we will deepen our collaborations toward solving social issues, including the realisation of a carbon-neutral society through a multi-pathway approach," Suzuki president Toshihiro



Suzuki said.

The new development marks the first BEV in the OEM (original equipment manufacturer) relationship between the two companies.

It will be launched worldwide, providing consumers a BEV choice even in the SUV market, which has shown remarkable

growth in the recent years.

"By leveraging the BEV unit and platform that we jointly developed, we will take a new step in our collaboration in the field of electric vehicles. This will allow us to deliver various choices that can also contribute towards a carbonneutral society. We would like to learn from each

other's strengths, compete, and further make joint efforts based on a multi-pathway approach," stated Toyota president Koji Sato.

The BEV unit and platform adopted for this model were jointly developed by Suzuki, Toyota and Daihatsu Motor Corporation, utilizing each company's strength.

The new model was designed exclusively as a BEV. A nimble SUV with the sharp driving characteristics of a BEV, it features ample cruising range and a comfortable cabin. It is also available with a 4WD system, offering exceptional drivability on rough roads and a more powerful driving performance.

## Sensex, Nifty decline in early trade on unabated foreign fund outflows, selling in IT stocks



MUMBAI, Oct 31 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty fell in early trade on Thursday dragged down by IT stocks and relentless foreign fund outflows.

The BSE Sensex declined 225.17 points to 79,707.66 in early trade. The NSE Nifty fell by 60.85 points to 24,280.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Titan, Maruti Suzuki and UltraTech Cement were the biggest laggards.

In contrast, Larsen & Toubro jumped over 5 per cent after the infrastructure major posted

a 5 per cent rise in consolidated profit after tax to Rs 3,395 crore in the September 2024 quarter on account of higher income.

Sun Pharma, Axis Bank, Tata Steel and State Bank of India were also among the gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Wednesday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 4,613.65 crore, according to exchange data.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo were trading lower while Shanghai and Hong Kong quoted in the green.

The US markets ended in the negative territory

on Wednesday.

"This Diwali it is unlikely to see fireworks in the market. India has been underperforming in October with Nifty down 5.7 per cent when markets in US and Japan have delivered positive returns and China and Hong Kong have hugely outperformed.

"India's underperformance is driven by lofty valuations, relentless FII selling and concerns over slowing earnings growth. In the near-term, this scenario is unlikely to change, reversing the trend decisively, even though mild pullbacks are possible," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.48 per cent to USD 72.90 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark Sensex tumbled 426.85 points or 0.53 per cent to settle at 79,942.18 on Wednesday. The Nifty dropped 126 points or 0.51 per cent to 24,340.85.

## BPL founder TPG Nambiar dies at 94

*Nambiar was not keeping well for quite some time*

BENGALURU, Oct 31 (Agencies): Indian electronic company BPL Group founder T P Gopalan Nambiar, died on Thursday, family sources said.

Nambiar, 94, was not keeping well for quite some time and passed

away in the morning, they said.

"... he died at home at about 10.15 am," a family member told agency.

Popularly known as TPG, he is the father-in-law of BJP leader and former Union Minister

Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

Mourning his demise, former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said on 'X', "Saddened by the passing of Shri TPG Nambiar, founder of the iconic BPL brand, who has been a close acquaintance for a long



time. Shri Nambiar's enormous contributions and legacy will always

be remembered. My heartfelt condolences to his loved ones."

## Most people unaware obesity can raise 20 pc lifetime risk of pancreatic cancer

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): Even as pancreatic cancer rates are rising among people under age 50, a new study on Wednesday showed that most people are unaware that obesity can increase the lifetime risk of pancreatic cancer by 20 per cent.

The study, led by researchers from the Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center, showed that most people continue to believe that pancreatic disease affects only the elderly -- and that there is nothing they can do to reduce their risk.

"Pancreatic cancer rates, however, have been rising by about 1 per cent annually, and we are seeing this disease in people who are in their 40s much more regularly. This is a concerning trend, and one for which research is needed to learn why,"

said Zobeida Cruz-Monserrate, from the varsity.

For the study, the team surveyed from October 4 -- October 7 among a sample of 1,004 respondents in the US who were asked about risk factors for pancreatic cancer.

The results showed that more than half (53 per cent) of adults under age 50 said they would not recognise the early signs or symptoms of the disease, and more than one-third (37 per cent) believe there is nothing they can do to change their risk of pancreatic cancer.

More than one-third (33 per cent) also believe only older adults are at risk.

Cruz-Monserrate said reducing the risk of pancreatic cancer could start with maintaining a healthy weight. Obesity alone increases a person's lifetime risk for

pancreatic cancer by 20 per cent.

On the other hand, the American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that just 10 per cent of pancreatic cancers are linked to heredity risk (genetic markers passed down through families), including the BRCA genes, Lynch syndrome, and others.

"You can't change your genes, but you can change your lifestyle. For most people, obesity is within someone's power to change. It also increases a person's risk for type 2 diabetes, other cancers, and cardiovascular disease," said Cruz-Monserrate.

Other modifiable lifestyle factors believed to reduce your lifetime risk for pancreatic cancer include limiting or eliminating alcohol consumption, regular moderate exercise, and a plant-based diet with limited red or processed meat.

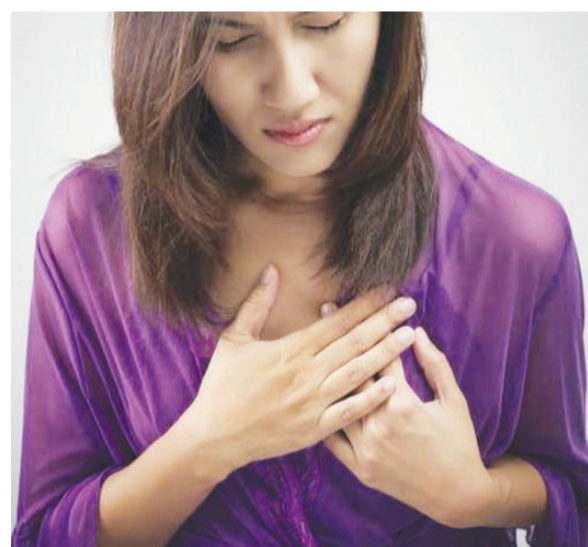
## Why women are more at risk of strokes than men

*Women's stroke symptoms often misdiagnosed, delaying treatment*

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): Hormonal changes caused due to pregnancy, or the use of oral contraceptives, and the longer life expectancy are some of the reasons that explain the higher incidences of strokes among women than men, said experts.

Stroke is a major cause of disability and death for all people worldwide. But, it is the third leading cause of death in women and kills more females than males, according to the American Stroke Association.

Hypertension and



heart diseases like atrial fibrillation, an irregular heart rhythm, together with pollution are other major risk factors.

"Women with a history of migraine with aura have an increased risk for stroke, especially along with factors such as smoking or oral contraceptives. Another is preeclampsia -- a com-

plication of pregnancy -- which doubles the risk of stroke after the fact but is rarely considered," Dr Sumit Singh, Chief-Neurology, Artemis Hospitals

The experts noted that women also often have atypical or less-recognised stroke symptoms, such as fatigue, general weakness, confusion or

disorientation, nausea, or vomiting, which contributes to late diagnosis and treatment.

"Common symptoms such as slurred speech, sudden weakness, and facial drooping are established in both genders; however, the symptoms in women are more disguised in dizziness, fatigue, nausea, and even hiccups. Such uncommon symptoms often delay judgement or misdiagnosis and are critical in worsening the outcome," Singh said.

While the treatment and prevention of ischemic stroke are generally similar for men and women, post-stroke rehabilitation programmes for women need to be more gender specific.

"Outcomes are worse, and depression and cognitive decline occur

more frequently, with longer times to recover in women compared to men. Thus, stroke recovery must be approached more holistically with mental health support, social integration, and individualised physical rehabilitation," the doctor said.

The core strategies for preventing ischemic stroke -- controlling blood pressure, managing cholesterol, avoiding smoking, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle -- are the same for both men and women.

However, Prasad stressed the need for women to regularly monitor for stroke risk if they are taking birth control pills, or undergoing Hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Women with a history of pre-eclampsia also need long-term follow-up.

## 'Meeting WHO's sodium recommendations could avert deaths'

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): Complying with the WHO-recommended levels of sodium intake could avert three lakh deaths due to heart and chronic kidney disease in 10 years, a modelling study by the World Health Organisation has estimated.

High levels of sodium -- an ingredient of salt -- are one of the main dietary risks of death and disability. Packaged foods are a major source of sodium intake in high-income countries, and increasingly becoming so in low- and middle-income countries.

However, researchers, including those from The George Institute for Global Health, Hyderabad, said that India has no national strategy for sodium reduction despite people consuming double the recommended intake and increasing amounts of packaged foods.

The WHO recommends under two grams of sodium a day, which is roughly the same as less than a teaspoon or five grams of salt a day.

Published in The Lancet Public Health journal, the results sug-



gested substantial health gains and cost savings within the first 10 years of compliance, including averting 17 lakh cardiovascular events, such as heart attacks and strokes, and seven lakh new chronic kidney disease cases, along with savings of USD 800 million.

The authors said that the results from the modelling make a strong case for India to mandate the implementation of WHO's sodium benchmarks, especially as people are increasingly consuming packaged food.

Slashing sodium intake in the population by 30 per cent by 2025 is one of nine global targets recommended by WHO for the preven-

tion and control of non-communicable diseases.

Countries, including the UK, Argentina and South Africa, have shown that setting targets regarding sodium content in packaged foods along with engaging food manufacturers to reformulate sodium to meet the targets, can effectively lower levels across packaged foods, and thereby reduce intake in the population, the authors said.

In India, few interventions address the issue of consuming high levels of sodium, they said.

Launched in 2018 by the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the current national initiative, 'Eat Right India', aims to educate people about healthy eating, including cutting down on sodium, the researchers said.

However, how adopting sodium targets for packaged foods could potentially impact intake across the country's population was not known, they said.

## Late menopause may raise risk of asthma in women: Study

NEW YORK, Oct 31 (Agencies): While earlier age menopause is known to be detrimental to a woman's health, a new study showed that a later age at natural menopause can pose a greater risk for asthma.

Asthma is a common, chronic disease affecting more than 300 million people worldwide.

Multiple studies have suggested a possible link between asthma and sex hormones. Most notable is the fact that adult-onset asthma is more common in women than men. While in childhood, asthma is more prevalent in boys, after puberty, asthma occurs more often in girls.

Women also tend to have more severe asthma and are less likely to have remission



of the disease.

The study, published online today in Menopause, the journal of The Menopause Society, suggested the role of natural oestrogen and synthetic oestrogen, such as those used in hormone therapy.

The study researchers found that women with early menopause (which occurs between 40 and 44 years of age) are at a reduced risk of asthma,

which led them to suggest the role of oestrogen in raising asthma risk.

The study showed that women who used hormone therapy had a 63 per cent increased risk of asthma, while those who stopped the therapy were two times more likely to quit asthma treatment.

"This study highlights sex-based differences in

asthma, with women at a greater risk for asthma than men in adulthood. It also showed that women with later onset of menopause are at greater risk than those with early onset of menopause," said Dr. Stephanie Faubion, medical director for The Menopause Society.

"Clinicians should be aware of this link and should monitor women with later age at natural menopause for asthma symptoms," Faubion added.

Higher body mass index was also found to be a risk factor for women, but not men, because fat produces oestrogen.

The study is based on 10 years of follow-up data from more than 14,000 postmenopausal women.

## On This Day: MS Dhoni thrills Jaipur crowd with 183 against Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): On October 31, 2005, MS Dhoni delivered one of the finest performances of his ODI career, scoring a remarkable 183 off 145 balls against Sri Lanka at Jaipur's Sawai Mansingh Stadium. This innings, which included 15 fours and 10 sixes, was particularly impressive as Dhoni was still relatively new to the international stage, having played for India for less than a year.

Coming in at No.3 after the early dismissal of Sachin Tendulkar, Dhoni started his innings cautiously before accelerating, ultimately leading India to chase down the 299-run target with 23 balls remaining and securing a 3-0 lead in the seven-match series. Dhoni's 183 became the highest individual score by a wicketkeeper-batter in ODIs, surpassing the previous record



of 172 set by Adam Gilchrist in 2004 against Zimbabwe in Hobart.

This record has stood strong for 18 years, with South Africa's Quinton de Kock coming close on multiple occasions. De Kock made scores of 174 against Bangladesh (Mumbai, 2023) and 178 against Australia (Centurion, 2016) and also scored

an unbeaten 168 against Bangladesh (Kimberley, 2017), but Dhoni's record remains unbroken. Bangladesh's Litton Das also came close in March 2020, with a 176-run knock against Zimbabwe in Sylhet.

Dhoni's 183 also set the record for the highest individual score in a successful run chase, a milestone later surpassed by

Shane Watson's 185 off 96 balls against Bangladesh in the 2011 World Cup at Mirpur. Dhoni, who remains one of cricket's greatest wicketkeeper-batters, retired with 17,266 runs in 538 international matches, averaging 44.96, with 16 centuries and 108 fifties to his name.

What MS Dhoni said about his knock?

MS Dhoni would remember his knock when he had gone to Jaipur with CSK for a match against RR in IPL 2023. Dhoni called the Sawai Mansingh stadium as a special venue and claimed the 183 had given him an extra one year in the team.

"This is a very special venue, my first ODI hundred in Vizag gave me 10 games but the 183 I made here gave me another one year. It was great to be back here," Dhoni told the broadcaster.

## We don't curate pitches, says India's assistant coach Nayar

MUMBAI, Oct 31 (Agencies): India's assistant coach Abhishek Nayar insisted that they do not ask for tailor-made pitches in Tests and also backed out-of-form legends Virat Kohli and skipper Rohit Sharma, saying that they must be given "space and time to come back".

Nayar refuted suggestions that turning tracks are being made at the behest of the team. "I wish we could curate pitches, but we don't. The curators do. Whatever we're provided with, we go on and play. We don't try and get conditions according to what we want," Nayar said.

Both Rohit and Kohli are woefully out of form, and that has impacted team's performance. Nayar said there is nothing wrong with the modern-day greats and all they need is just a bit of time and backing.

"I've seen nothing but love for them all over. When a top player, someone who's been through the journey, goes through a lull, a lot of times it's about giving them their space and trusting that they will come back. They will put in the work," he said.

"Everyone's worked really hard, everyone wants to do well, whether you're Virat Kohli or Rohit Sharma or even someone as young as Shubman Gill. The effort is there. Sometimes, you've got to be a little patient, even with the greatest of players, and they can have tough times," he added.

Nayar said it would be "harsh" to say the current Indian batters do not play spin as well as those in the past. "That's a bit of a harsh statement. When you're trying to achieve something, there's always going to be a time when you take a certain dip because you're trying to play cricket in a different way and you're trying to push yourself out of the comfort zone," he said.

"Sometimes the results don't go your way, but if you're patient enough and when that upward curve hits the team and hits an individual, then your purple patch lasts for really long. We're hoping that the transition that we're trying to have in terms of the mindset and the approach of the players in Team India, (given) that we're facing this dip now, but once we start hitting the upward curve, it'll be a long curve," he added.

## 1st unofficial Test: Australia A's Doggett picks 6 wickets to bowl India A out for 107

MACKAY, Oct 31 (Agencies): Australia A pacer Brendan Doggett bowled a superb spell, taking six wickets to skittle India A out for a mere 107 runs on the opening day of the 1st unofficial Test in Mackay. Opting to bowl first, Australia A capitalized on the favorable conditions, with Doggett spearheading the attack and causing significant damage to India's batting lineup.

India A, who took to the crease under overcast skies, struggled from the outset. Doggett struck early by dismissing opener Rituraj Gaikwad for a first-ball duck, caught brilliantly by wicketkeeper Josh Philippe down the leg side. This early dismissal set the tone for a relentless onslaught from Doggett, who proceeded to claim five more scalps, including key wickets of Ishan Kishan, Devdutt Padikal, and Prasidh Krishna.



With the Indian top and middle order under immense pressure, Doggett maintained accuracy and pace, ensuring no batter settled. Sai Sudharsan and Abhimanyu Easwaran tried to stabilize the innings briefly but succumbed to the disciplined line and length of Doggett and his counterparts, Todd Murphy and Jordan Buckingham, who supported him with key breakthroughs. Doggett's final figures of 6 for 29 underscored his dominance, making him the standout performer on the opening day.

In a desperate bid to lift their score past 100,

Saini launched a few late boundaries, but the innings quickly folded as Murphy and Buckingham cleaned up the tail. Saini's valiant 23 off 43 deliveries was the highest score for India A, highlighting their batting struggles.

Doggett's wicket-taking spree proved critical in giving Australia A the early momentum, ensuring India A never settled into a rhythm.

With India A bowled out for 107, Australia A has set a commanding tone in the first unofficial Test, with all eyes now on their batters to capitalize on this early advantage.

## New Zealand series loss hurting but can't just blame batters: India coach Gambhir

MUMBAI, Oct 31 (Agencies): Head coach Gautam Gambhir acknowledged that Team India was "hurting" after their first home Test series defeat in 12 years, expressing hope that the disappointment would drive his players to improve. Gambhir emphasized that the responsibility for the series loss wasn't solely on the batters, stating that everyone on the team needed to take accountability.

Despite conceding a 0-2 lead to New Zealand, the third Test at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium remains crucial, with valuable ICC World Test Championship points on the line.

Gambhir, appointed head coach earlier this year, defended his team while emphasizing collective responsibility rather than singling out the batting lineup.



"Everyone has the responsibility, I cannot say just the batters have let us down," Gambhir said in the pre-match press conference ahead of the third and final Test at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium.

In Bengaluru, New

Zealand's seam and swing prowess troubled India, while in Pune, on a spin-friendly track traditionally favoring the hosts, New Zealand again outclassed Rohit Sharma's men. The surprise losses have raised questions about India's

adaptability, even at home. Reflecting on the difficult start to his coaching tenure, Gambhir acknowledged the frustration but remains optimistic about the impact of this setback. "I am not going to sugarcoat that it is hurting. It should hurt and that will make us better. What is wrong in being in this position? I am sure this will push the youngsters to be better cricketers. If we have results like Kanpur, might as well have results like this and keep moving forward," Gambhir added.

The Indian batting lineup, while talented, has struggled to occupy the crease and build substantial innings in the first two Tests. However, Gambhir believes India's approach to each session holds equal importance. "Test cricket should be played

like Test cricket. If we need to score 400 runs in a day, we should be capable. But it's also about how we handle sessions. Four and a half sessions should be enough to set up a solid lead," he remarked.

India currently leads the standings, but to secure a spot in their third consecutive final, they must win at least four of their next six Tests, including five in Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. With this in mind, the hosts are keen to shake off recent setbacks and focus on winning in Mumbai to strengthen their chances of playing the final at Lord's in June. Consequently, Rohit Sharma's team may need to prioritize experience over experimentation, leaving limited room to field youngsters who haven't yet featured in the series.

## Verstappen under scrutiny in defence of reputation, title in Sao Paulo

*Twice a winner in Brazil, where he finished ahead of Norris last year, Verstappen this time will be seeking a first win in 11 Grands Prix dating back to Spain in June, his worst run in four years.*

SAO PAULO, Oct 31 (Agencies): Three-time world champion Max Verstappen will be a focus of intensified scrutiny this weekend when he seeks to defend his reputation and his lead in the drivers' world championship at the Sao Paulo Grand Prix.

After being penalised twice for his wayward driving, notably forcing nearest title rival Lando Norris of McLaren off the track, in Mexico, Red Bull's series leader arrives at Interlagos with a 47-point lead, but widespread criticism ringing in his ears.

In the aftermath of the first two races in a triple-header, the 27-year-old Dutchman has been slammed as "dangerous", told by Norris that he "got what he had coming to him" and been compared, by former world champion Damon Hill to Wacky Races' cartoon series villain Dick Dastardly.

His response was to complain about the performance of his car and the inconsistency of race stewards' decisions in what he sees as an over-regulated sport that saw a drivers'

meeting last Friday call for revised guidelines on overtaking moves.

"I just drive how I think I have to drive," said Verstappen.

"Last week, it was all right, this week a 20-seconds penalty. I'm not going to cry about it and I'm also not going to share my opinion. The biggest problem I have is that it was a bad day in terms of race pace."

His attitude to a widespread outcry at his tactic of braking late to ensure he leads at the apex of a corner at the expense of running off track and taking a rival with him won him few friends ahead of one of the most fevered and atmospheric events.

According to Mercedes' George Russell, the drivers were 19 of 20 in favour of a regulation change to end a tactic that Hill, the 1996 champion, said enables Verstappen to use his car as a weapon.

Hill told a Sky Sports podcast: "The footage is very clear. He made no attempt to back off and make the corner and leave room for Lando. It was simply a case of 'you are not coming



through'.

"The second move was just daft -- and Dick Dastardly stuff. He accelerated to the apex and drove Lando off the track and Lando didn't have much option."

'Conflict of interest' Twice a winner in Brazil, where he finished ahead of Norris last year, Verstappen this time will be seeking a first win in 11 Grands Prix dating back to Spain in June, his worst run in four years.

According to his father Jos Verstappen, it is unlikely his son will change his style.

"Max has to drive the way he wants," the former F1 driver told De Telegraaf.

"He has to do this

because the car is not good enough and he is doing everything he can to win the title.

"He isn't going to change because there were a couple of stewards present, who don't like him anyway. The FIA should take a good look at the staffing of the stewards who they put there and whether there is any appearance of a conflict of interest."

His comments, in the wake of Max Verstappen's earlier claims that he did not have the right passport for the approval of his critics, suggested that Britons Johnny Herbert and Tim Mayer may have been conflicted.

The row over Verstappen's driving provoked

comment from another Briton, commentator Martin Brundle, a former racing driver contemporary of Jos Verstappen, who said: "He's a multiple champion, has more driving talent in his little finger than most of us ever had, but his legacy will be tainted by this sporting attitude and that's a shame."

These tensions are expected to surface again as Verstappen, with a likely five-place grid penalty for an engine change, bids to improve on his sixth place in Mexico where Norris was second behind Ferrari's Carlos Sainz.

After two successive wins, the Italian team hunt a first constructors' title since 2008, having closed within 30 points of overhauling McLaren while defending champions Red Bull, with Sergio Perez racing to save his seat, have slipped back to third.

Having won in Mexico for the first time since 1990, Ferrari seek a first Brazilian success since Felipe Massa's emotional triumph in 2008 to complete a memorable hat-trick.

## Kane Williamson will return for England series: New Zealand coach Gary Stead



MUMBAI, Oct 31 (Agencies): New Zealand head coach Gary Stead has expressed strong confidence that Kane Williamson will be fit to return for the first Test of New Zealand's home summer against England, scheduled from November 28 to December 2 at Hagley Oval in Christchurch.

The New Zealand management opted not to risk Williamson for the upcoming Test in Mumbai, set to start on Friday, choosing instead to take a cautious approach with his recovery. Williamson, 34, sustained a groin injury during New Zealand's recent tour of Sri Lanka, just before the opening of the three-match Test series in

India. "Yeah, very confident," Stead said of Williamson's availability for the first Test against England. "I mean at a push we could have got him over here [in India] immediately, but considering I guess the travel factor and making sure that you can actually recover properly when you get here, we didn't feel though that was worth the risk. So we're happy with having him ready and very, very confident he'll be right for that first Test versus England."

Despite Williamson's absence throughout the India series, New Zealand achieved a historic milestone by securing their first-ever Test series win in the coun-

try. Will Young, stepping in at No. 3, impressed with his resilience against Indian bowlers like Jasprit Bumrah and R Ashwin, adapting well to the challenging conditions in Bengaluru and Pune.

Stead said that he was hoping Williamson would use the time off to get himself ready for the England series.

"Look, it's always disappointing when he's not over here with us," Stead said of Williamson. "I mean, he's New Zealand's greatest Test run-scorer for a reason, and I think whenever you have Kane in your side, it looks a stronger side. But the guys have gone really well."

"We've adapted well without him here. The best thing for Kane is just to get himself completely right for England and we're certainly looking forward to him coming back and hopefully making a difference in that Test series over there for us."

New Zealand retain an outside chance of making it to the World Test Championship Final but need to win all their remaining 4 matches.

## Chenab Valley's call for language and cultural recognition amid national inclusion efforts

### Top News Report

DODA, Oct 31: In the Chenab Valley, nestled within the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the call to preserve and promote local languages and cultural traditions has grown ever more pressing. Anzer Ayoob, President of the Chenab Times Foundation (CTF), recently voiced strong concerns about the declining emphasis on the unique languages and culture of the Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban districts. As demands mount nationwide for the inclusion of regional languages in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution, Ayooob has appealed for a similar focus on the preservation of Chenab Valley's local languages and traditions, including Bhaderwahi, Sarazi, Kishtwari, Padari, and Pogli.

"Many states are actively campaigning to have their languages recognized at the national level, but here in Chenab Valley, we are still struggling to ensure that our local languages are included in school assemblies and cultural programs," Ayooob emphasized, highlighting the contrast between national and local efforts. He noted that the community has long sought to implement measures that would strengthen the presence of local languages within educational settings, such as incorporating prayers and activities in Bhaderwahi, Sarazi, and other regional languages during school assemblies. However, these appeals have yet to receive the support needed to translate into policy or practice.

The Chenab Valley, rich



in linguistic diversity and cultural heritage, has produced numerous poets and artists who have contributed significantly to regional literature and traditional art forms. Despite this, Ayooob pointed out that cultural events in local schools often prioritize Bollywood songs and dances over indigenous cultural expressions. Events like Independence Day and Republic Day, he explained, showcase performances dominated by mainstream film industry

content, diminishing the visibility of local traditions. "Our schools should be able to celebrate our own cultural identities through these programs, not by presenting Bollywood as our culture," he remarked, calling for administrative support to prioritize the Chenab Valley's heritage at these events.

While the national conversation on the inclusion of regional languages is gaining traction—with prominent demands for

languages like Tulu, Sambalpuri, Ho, Khasi, and Gor-Boli across the country—Ayoob noted that the people of Chenab Valley are not even able to secure local recognition of their languages and cultural contributions. "We see states advocating fiercely for their regional languages at the national level, while we still dream of achieving even a local acknowledgment," Ayooob lamented, emphasizing the urgency for cultural recognition within the Valley.

He concluded with a call for the government and education administrators to promote and protect Chenab Valley's heritage, stating, "It is time that our unique languages and rich traditions are not only acknowledged but celebrated, ensuring they are preserved for future generations."

## District Police Kishtwar hosts farewell function for retiring officer



### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Oct 31: The District Police Kishtwar organized a heartfelt farewell function at the District Police Lines (DPL) Kishtwar to honor ASI Shadi Lal, who is retiring after years of dedicated service in the J&K Police.

The event celebrated ASI Shadi Lal's significant contributions and unwavering com-

mitment to the police force. SSP Kishtwar, Abdul Qayoom (JKPS), attended the function, praising ASI Shadi Lal for his exemplary service. He expressed deep gratitude for the retiring officer's dedication and wished him good health and success in his post-retirement endeavors.

The farewell was also attended by Deputy Superintendent of

Police (DySP) PC Dachhan, DySP DAR DPL Kishtwar, and other officers from the Kishtwar Police, who gathered to show their appreciation and support for ASI Shadi Lal as he embarks on a new chapter in his life. The occasion was filled with warm memories and heartfelt tributes, reflecting the camaraderie and respect among the police personnel.

## Deputy Director Agriculture reviews Tangdar's Agricultural Progress, engages with farmers on scheme benefits

### Top News Report

TANGDAR, Oct 31: Deputy Director of Agriculture, Waheed ur Rehman, conducted a comprehensive review of agricultural projects in the Tangdar Sub Division, focusing on the impact and progress of various ongoing initiatives. His visit aimed to assess the implementation of key agricultural programs and identify both achievements and challenges faced by the local farming community.

During a meeting held at the SDAO Office in Tangdar, Rehman engaged with officers to discuss the successes and obstacles in executing the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP). He commended the efforts of local agriculture officers for their commitment to enhancing agricultural practices in remote areas.

Rehman also inspected a Hi-Tech Polygreen House established under the HADP in Dildar village. He rec-

ognized the importance of such advancements in boosting productivity and improving farming methods.

In addition to project inspections, Rehman took the opportunity to interact with farmers at various locations. He encouraged them to fully utilize government schemes aimed at strengthening agricultural practices and highlighted the role of the media in spreading awareness about these programs. He stressed that informed participation is crucial for maximizing benefits for the farming community.

Progressive farmer Abdul Qayoom Khawaja expressed his appreciation for the support from the agriculture department and conveyed his determination to leverage these government schemes for enhanced productivity and success in the region.

Overall, Rehman's visit underscored the government's ongoing commitment to promoting agricultural development and supporting farmers in Tangdar.

## BLSKS celebrates "Rashtriya Ekta Diwas" with musical play and Diwali festivities

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 31: In a vibrant celebration of National Unity Day and Diwali, the Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) held a special event featuring a musical play titled "Ekta Ka Diya."

The celebration, organized in collaboration with Sangam Tru Art Production, took place at the Rehearsal Hall of Durga Bhawan, Janipur, Jammu, and included a floral tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in honor of his birth anniversary.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. Anju Dogra from the Health Department, J&K Government, and attended by notable guests, including media personality Mukesh Singh and Sh. Romesh Chander, Advisor of Shashvat Art Gallery Jammu.

The program commenced with several uplifting songs such as "Ekta Ka Diya," "Suno Suno Bharat Walo Hum Sab Ek Saman Hai," "Mil Ke Kaho Hum Ek Hai,"

"Aneka Mai Ekta Ka Dikhta Naya Sandesh," and "Payari Ganga Ae Sari." The musical presentation was written, produced, and directed by Dr. M.L. Dogra, with musical support from Master Raju Bajgal.

In her address, Dr. Anju Dogra emphasized the significance of October 31 as National Unity Day, commemorating Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's pivotal role in India's independence and his legacy as the country's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister. She wished everyone a joyful Diwali filled with love, laughter, and sweets.

Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman of BLSKS, reflected on Patel's immense contributions to uniting diverse princely states into one nation. He highlighted the importance of National Unity Day as a reminder of India's shared history and culture, emphasizing the concept of "unity in diversity." He also extended warm wishes for a happy Diwali, cel-

ebrating the themes of prosperity and blessings.

M.C. Kotwal, Secretary of BLSKS, spoke about the significance of Diwali as the Festival of Lights, symbolizing the triumph of knowledge over ignorance and good over evil. He noted that this year, Diwali is celebrated over two days: October 31 and November 1.

The cultural program featured performances by singers, musicians, and actors, including Usha Raina, Raju Bajgal, Rajni Gupta, Bindia Okheda, Chahat Chadha, Rahul Kumar, and Sudesh Manhas, who captivated the audience with their talent. The event concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Deepak Kumar, marking the successful execution of the program.

The celebration not only honored Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel but also reinforced the spirit of unity and joy in the community during the festive season.

## IMS Jammu hosts alumni meet to reconnect, reflect, and celebrate achievements

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 31: The Institute of Management Sciences (IMS), Jammu recently held an Alumni Meet, bringing together alumni, faculty, and esteemed guests for an evening dedicated to celebrating achievements, strengthening bonds, and fostering connections across generations of IMS graduates. The event welcomed alumni from various fields, each making remarkable strides in their careers.

The gathering was inaugurated with a warm welcome extended by Dr. Meenakshi Sharma, Director of IMS, alongside Senior Professor Prof. J.R. Dhotra, Coordinator of both Departments and Assistant Professor Gurshish Kour. The event provided a platform for alumni to share their professional journeys and insights, enriching the current students and staff with their experiences and accomplishments.

As part of the event, several distinguished alumni were invited

to share their inspiring stories. Notable alumni included Aditya Sharma, ASM at Jai Beverages Pvt Ltd; Payal Koul, Associate Consultant at Capgemini; Ujwal Manhas, IT Helpdesk Engineer at RVS iGlobal; and Sahil Sharma, entrepreneur and political figure from the Jammu region. They discussed their journey so far and highlighted the diversity of paths IMS alumni have taken and the significant impact they are making across industries.

In addition, the event recognized a group of alumni achievers whose dedication and professional milestones have contributed to the reputation of IMS Jammu. Among them were Aryamann Singh, owner of Shiv Shakti & Pace Hyundai Jammu; Aditi Bhel, HR Manager at Modern Real Estate in Dubai; Mohit Kumar Sharma, cricketer and researcher on the Wool and Pelt Project at SKUAST; and Rahul Sharma, founder and MD of Monk Solution, among others. Each

alumnus received a token of appreciation, presented by Dr. Meenakshi Sharma and Prof. J.R. Dhotra, as a mark of gratitude and respect for their contributions.

The event concluded with closing remarks from Prof. J.R. Dhotra, who expressed appreciation for the alumni's engagement and encouraged continued collaboration between IMS and its graduates to inspire future generations. The Alumni Meet at IMS not only celebrated the accomplishments of its alumni but also reinforced the sense of community that lies at the heart of the institution.

Chairman JGEI, Er Vidhi S Jamwal, Managing Director, Er Renu Bangroo, Vice Chairman Shiv dev Singh Jamwal congratulated Director and staff of the institute and said that IMS Jammu looks forward to more such gatherings. The evening was a reminder of the institution's commitment to fostering enduring connections and supporting the growth of its alumni network.

## NC prioritizes restoration of dignity and self-esteem: Ajeet Bhagat

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Oct 31: Senior leader and spokesperson for the Chenab Valley Zone of the J&K National Conference, Ajeet Bhagat, congratulated parents, students, and teachers for the reinstatement of the Winter Session.

In his remarks, Bhagat emphasized that the National Conference government is committed to delivering services and exceeding benchmarks. He praised Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Madam Sakina Itoo for addressing the genuine demands of the Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal regions.

Bhagat highlighted the urgent need for job advertisements, stressing that youth who are nearing the age limit, as well as those who have completed their B.Ed, graduation, and professional courses, should be given opportunities to serve their communities and achieve financial stability. He criticized the BJP for what he described as the loss of opportunities since 2014, referring to their policies as a "cartoon network" that has failed the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

He concluded by reaffirming the National Conference's dedication to restoring dignity and self-esteem among the people of the region through proactive governance and job creation.

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