

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 06, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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'We made history for a reason tonight': Donald Trump claims victory in stunning comeback



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BRIEFLY

Omar Abdullah insulting Parliament, SC and Constitution to please Pakistan: Tarun Chugh



SRINAGAR, Nov 6 (Agencies): BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh today fired the Omar Abdullah-led NC government for grossly insulting national institutions like the Constitution and the Supreme Court of India by bringing in a resolution on Article 370 in the Assembly.

It also amounted to disrespecting the Parliament which had put its stamp on the abolition of Article 370. Chugh ridiculed the political sense of the Omar Abdullah government for trying to reverse what the Parliament has approved and what the Supreme Court has allowed.

Lashing out at the NC government, Chugh said it was a gravely anti-national act of the Omar Abdullah government which is aimed at pushing the agenda laid down by the Pakistan ISI.

Chugh said it clearly demonstrated that the NC government was determined to follow the Pakistan agenda instead of addressing the problems of common man.

Expressing his serious concern at it, Chugh called it a "cheap political gimmick" by the Omar Abdullah government. He said if Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was serious about it he should have taken the call instead of firing a controversial salvo from the shoulder of a deputy chief minister.

He said the BJP would not allow such flimsy issues to come to the forefront as the BJP carries a huge mandate of J&K people endorsing the abolition of Article 370.

The Omar Abdullah government, Chugh said, is deliberately trying to disturb the law and order situation in J&K by politicising such issues and is trying to take J&K back to stone age.

The Modi government, he said, has already laid down a path of development and progress for the J&K youth and it would be a grave tragedy if the Omar Abdullah government gets J&K back to the dark age times of bullets and violence.

J-K Assembly passes resolution for restoration of special status

SRINAGAR, Nov 6 (Agencies): Amid uproar by the BJP, the Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly on Wednesday passed a resolution demanding the restoration of the special status.

The assembly passed by voice vote resolution asking Centre to hold dialogue with elected representatives for restoration of special status.

As promised by the National Conference in their manifesto, the resolution was moved by the Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Singh Choudhary



demanding the restoration of J-K's special status and constitutional

guarantees, which safeguarded the identity, culture, and rights of people

of Jammu and Kashmir, and expresses concern

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Assembly has done its job: Omar on special status resolution

SRINAGAR, Nov 6 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the Assembly has done its job after it passed a resolution seeking a dialogue between the Centre and elected representatives for the restoration of the special status of the erstwhile state.

The resolution, which also expressed "concern" over the "unilateral



removal" of the special status, was passed without any debate as the Speaker put it to voice vote amidst noisy scenes.

"The assembly has done its job. I will only say this much," a beaming Abdullah told reporters outside the assembly complex.

NC MLA and J-K's deputy chief minister Surinder Choudhary moved the resolution for restoring the special status of J-K, which was revoked by the Centre on August 5, 2019.

"That this legislative assembly reaffirms the

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My duty is to count votes, not influence outcomes: Speaker Rahim Rather



SRINAGAR, Nov 6 (Agencies): Speaker of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim on Wednesday his role in the legislative process, addressing the extent of

his authority as Speaker in presiding over House sessions.

He said that his primary responsibility is to oversee proceedings and count votes, rather than influence or alter the decisions made by the members.

Explaining the process, he stated, "My role is to count the votes on any motion presented before the House. If there is a majority, I declare it passed. Beyond that,

I have no authority to reverse or send back any decision made by the House." Rahim stressed that his responsibility is only to ensure an accurate count and announce the outcome, with no role in deciding the motion's content or outcome.

"The House alone has the power to withdraw or amend any decision it passes; the Speaker cannot override the will of the House," Rahim asserted.

LMV licence holders entitled to drive transport vehicles under 7,500 kg unladen weight: SC



NEW DELHI, Nov 6 (Agencies): A person holding a light motor vehicles (LMV) driving licence is entitled to drive a "transport vehicle of light motor vehicle class" having an unladen weight not

exceeding 7,500 kg, the Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday.

"We hold that if transport vehicle weight is within 7,500 kgs, then a LMV license holder can also drive the same transport vehicle.

A driver holding LMV license to drive a vehicle under gross weight of 7,500 kgs can drive transport vehicles. There is no clear difference between LMV and transport vehicle," a five-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said.

The Bench - which also included Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Justice PS Narasimha, Justice Pankaj Mishra and Justice Manoj Misra held that a transport vehicle having an unladen weight under 7,500 kg

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Terrorist killed in an ongoing gunfight in north Kashmir's Lolab

SRINAGAR, Nov 6 (Agencies): An unidentified Terrorist has been killed in an ongoing encounter in the forest area Lolab in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, reports said Wednesday morning.

Quoting a top police officer news agency NVI reported that one terrorist has been killed in Lolab, and his identity is yet to be ascertained.

Earlier, a nocturnal gunfight between security forces and terrorists broke out in Lolab forest area of Kupwara district, officials said.

They said after specific



inputs about presence of militants, the Army's 28RR along with J&K Police Kupwara cordoned off Lolab forests and started searches.

"Soon after the search party zeroed in the suspected spot, the hiding terrorists opened fire which led to encounter in the area," they said.

AAP MLA Mehraj Malik supports the resolution on Article 370 passed in J&K assembly

SRINAGAR, Nov 6 (Agencies): Aam Admi Party MLA Mehraj Malik on Wednesday said that his party has extended his supported to resolution of Article 370 passed by the J&K Assembly.

Earlier J-K Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary moved the resolution for restoring the special status of J-K, which was revoked by the Centre on August 5, 2019.

Talking to agency, Malik said that he wants to safeguard the land



rights of people of the J&K and

jobs. It is based on the rights of my people, I simply support it, he said.

"BJP has snatched the jobs of 4th class employee and have destroyed the J&K in the past 10 years. MLA's should read this historic resolution, they are uneducated and mafia walas, he alleged.

Earlier in 2019, former Delhi chief minister and the AAP's national convener Arvind Kejriwal on stated that his party supports the central

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Gaurav urges LG Sinha to expedite Artificial Tawi Lake Project

Lauds LG Amdin for resolving Stamp Duty issue, bringing relief to property holders in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 6: Gaurav Gupta, former General Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jammu, met with the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, and thanked him for resolving the Stamp Duty issue, bringing relief to property holders of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, Gaurav Gupta expressed his appreciation for LG Sinha led Administration for addressing the long-standing issue of stamp duty in property transactions. He praised the recent resolution that allows the attachment of previously paid stamp duty on power of attorney documents to new sale deeds, providing much-needed relief to property owners and significantly easing the process of property registration across the Union Territory.



Since January 2024, property transactions in Jammu and Kashmir faced delays due to a government software limitation, which prevented the use of paid stamp duty from power of attorney documents on new transactions. This issue stalled hundreds of registrations, causing con-

siderable inconvenience for residents.

Notably, Gaurav Gupta has raised this significant issue of Stamp Duty issue at various levels from the office of the LG Sinha and Chief Secretary J&K for early redressal in the past.

Gaurav also acknowledged the efforts of

Bashir Ahmed Bhat, IRS, Inspector General Registration and other concerned authorities of Revenue Department for rectifying the issue, which has now restored a smooth process for property transactions. He commended the Government's proactive approach, stating, "The timely intervention by the administration, especially under the leadership of Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, demonstrates a strong commitment to resolving public grievances swiftly and ensuring the convenience of citizens."

During the meeting, Gaurav also raised serious concerns over the prolonged delays in the completion of the Artificial Tawi Lake project. He highlighted the project's significance for the region's tourism, economy, and local residents' quality of life, stressing the urgent need to expedite its progress.

Gaurav underscored the aspirations of the people of Jammu for the timely completion of this long-awaited project, which was envisioned to transform the Tawi Riverfront into a vibrant, scenic hub attracting both tourists and locals. He pointed out that the artificial lake, once operational, could substantially boost tourism, create jobs, and support local businesses.

Gaurav Gupta shared his concerns about the slow pace of work, which has not only dampened public expectations but also delayed the economic benefits anticipated from this ambitious initiative. He urged LG Sinha to look into the project's bottlenecks, directing concerned departments to prioritize and address any technical or administrative hurdles hindering its timely completion.

In response, LG Manoj Sinha assured Gaurav Gupta of his personal commitment to this initiative. The LG stated that he would personally visit the project site in the coming days to assess the progress and reiterated his resolve to see the project completed promptly.

NC mulls to push Art 370 resolution into Parliament as BJP calls it a 'mere piece of paper'

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 6: With National Conference asserting that it has fulfilled its commitment of representing the aspirations of people of J&K in the form of passing the resolution of Article 370 in the Assembly, many senior party leaders believed that the party was mulling to push the resolution into the parliament, the bigger platform.

NC MLA Mir Saifullah said that today's development was the first step towards achieving the bigger goal. "We passed the resolution with everybody supporting it. Now we have to see the ways and means as to how we can push it into the Parliament. That would be a milestone achievement for us," he said, hinting that the NC MP from Srinagar Aga Syed Ruhullah may move the same resolution in the Parliament in the upcoming session in New Delhi.

Similarly, NC MLA from Uri Dr Sajad Shafi told KINS that it was a historic moment for the party and the people of J&K and all parties except BJP supported the NC resolution. "We were aware of the BJP's opposition. But what else they can do. They have to oppose it to stay relevant," he said adding, "The start was good and it will continue. Remember the first mutiny of 1857 against Britishers. Things happen gradually and today was the first big step. There is more to come."

MLA Handwara Sheikh Khurshid Ahmed, however, claimed that there were some lacunae in the resolution but nevertheless it was a good beginning. "This was indeed a step forward and needs to be taken forward so that a logical conclusion is reached," he said.

Joining the chorus, NC MLA from Hazratbal Salman Sagar said that the beginning has been

good and it won't stop here only. "We will get what we have promised the people of J&K. We got a huge mandate and we will use the same mandate to get back what has been snatched," he said.

Peoples Conference Sajad Lone also termed the passing of resolution as a "good beginning." Asked whether the resolution lacked the direct mention of Article 370 and Article 35 A, he said: "It was indeed a good start."

On the contrary, BJP MLAs believe that what was passed in the Assembly was not a resolution but "a mere piece of paper." "This piece of paper has no legal validity. The Supreme Court and the Parliament have closed the chapter of Article 370 forever. No Assembly is supreme than the Parliament. Today's move sans legal validity and is constitutionally illegal," said BJP Legislator R S Pathania.

Lt Governor Brig Mishra inaugurates 4th LG Cup Horse Polo-2024 Tournament at Drass Inaugurates Polo Stadium Goshan Drass

Top News Report

KARGIL, Nov 6: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) inaugurated the 4th LG Horse Polo Cup-2024 Tournament organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, UT Ladakh, at Goshan Stadium in Drass. The LG also inaugurated the Horse Polo Stadium at Goshan, Drass, which was constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 6.84 crore.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG appreciated the organisers, players and the audience for participating in the LG Horse Polo Cup. He stated that the UT Administration Ladakh is committed to the welfare of people, uplifting youth and ensuring a better future for Ladakh. Highlighting the significance of horse polo, the LG stated that the game fosters proper coordination between the player and horse and enhances the skills.

The LG stated that the UT Administration sent 12 girls from Kargil to Delhi for horse riding and polo training with the President's Body Guard. He also stated that efforts would be made to invite the President or the Vice President of India



to grace the horse polo event at Drass.

Earlier, the HLG performed the throw-in ceremony to signal the commencement of the opening match between Himalayan-A and Himalayan-B.

On the occasion, Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoo discussed the historical significance of polo, highlighting its cultural roots and regional importance.

The CEC emphasised the need for sports infrastructure and facilities to ensure that the players don't have to travel outside Ladakh for training.

He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi; Home Minister, Amit Shah and Lieutenant

Governor of Ladakh Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) for granting district status to Drass.

On the occasion, the Member of Parliament from Ladakh, Mohamad Haneefa welcomed the LG and expressed gratitude for his efforts in promoting traditional sports across the Union Territory of Ladakh. He highlighted the talent of Ladakhi youth and emphasised the importance of proper infrastructure, training and facilities for them. He stated that developing sports in Ladakh could boost tourism in the region.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Shrikant Bala-saheb Suse welcomed

the guests while Joint Director, Youth Services and Sports, UT Ladakh, Tahir Hussain Zubdavi presented the vote of thanks. Artists and students performed songs and dances on the occasion.

First Lady, Neelam Mishra; Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Shrikant Bala-saheb Suse; ASP Kargil, Mujeeb-Ur-Rehman; Director, Youth Services & Sports, UT Ladakh, Tahir Hussain Zubdavi; HoDs of various departments, district officers and officials were present during the event.

DC Kathua listens to people's issues at weekly Block Diwas

Top News Report

KATHUA, Nov 6: As part of the public outreach effort of the District Administration, Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas on Wednesday presided over a Block Diwas program at Khokhyal in Nagri Block.

The event witnessed the participation of a large number of locals and officials, including DDC Nagri Sandeep Majotra, CPO, ACR, ACD, and other district and sectoral officers.

The local residents raised wide range of issues of public importance, emphasizing the need for the completion of the Check Dam in Khokhyal, the establishment of an Animal Husbandry Centre and an Agriculture Centre, the widening of the Changrah-Nagri Road, completion of water supply schemes, and addressing the growing concern of drug abuse in the area.

DDC Sandeep Majotra presented additional demands, seeking connectivity under the

PMGSY scheme, canal channelization and the establishment of a separate ration depot in Khokhyal.

Dr. Rakesh Minhas assured the attendees that their concerns would be addressed promptly, directing the concerned departments to employ immediate interventions where feasible. He highlighted the ongoing efforts to improve infrastructure in the Nagri Block, noting that mining-affected areas have been approved for development projects worth Rs. 41 lakh, including additional classrooms at GMS Pandori and NPS Majra. He also emphasized the administration's commitment to taking up further development projects in the region.

Addressing specific demands, Dr. Minhas directed the District Animal Husbandry Officer to establish a functional Animal Husbandry Centre in Khokhyal with dedicated staff. He also informed the public that the process of setting up a Kisan Khidmat Centre is underway,

with plans to inaugurate it within a month to provide seeds, fertilizers, and other agricultural services. He encouraged farmers to adopt Nano Urea to maximize land yield.

Regarding the widening of the Changrah-Nagri Road, the Deputy Commissioner stated that the Border Roads Organization (BRO) has been engaged, and the project will address frequent road accidents upon completion. On the matter of the Check Dam, Dr. Minhas instructed the XEN Irrigation to devise a viable solution by visiting the site and consulting all stakeholders to enhance the irrigation facilities in the area.

The Deputy Commissioner also addressed concerns about high power bills, advising farmers to consider solar motors, which come with substantial government subsidies, eliminating electricity costs.

Speaking on the important issue of Drug Menace in the areas of Nagri, the DC called upon

all inhabitants especially women to come forward for sharing information of people indulged in dealing/ selling Drugs and other narcotics. He said Kathua Administration has taken the stance of zero tolerance against the perpetrators of Drug Menace, and strict punishment will be ensured for those involved in it.

Earlier, XEN PHE assured the community that six out of eleven ongoing water supply schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) would be completed by December, significantly improving the water supply in Khokhyal and surrounding areas.

During the event, Dr. Minhas inspected various departmental stalls set up to inform the public about government schemes and programs. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the administration's commitment to development and urged the community to take advantage of available resources for their welfare.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
The Deputy Chief Engineer/GR/Workshop, Northern Railway, Jalandhar Cantt, for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

S. No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of opening	Bidding start date on IREPS	Cost of tender form Rs.	Completion period of work
1	OT-22/JRC-2024	Painting of various bridges in SBE/BRM/BDGM over FZR Division in jurisdiction of SEN (BL/JAT)	1,40,00,000.00	2,24,000.00	26.11.2024	12.11.2024 to 26.11.2024	0	10 Months

Date & Time for submission of Tender and opening of tender: Up to 16:00 hrs. on dates shown against each and opening of tender thereafter at 15:00 hrs on same date.
The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indians railways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in

Website Particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded

No. 80-W30/Bridges/Invitation Dated: 04.11.2024
3422/2024
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UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION GANDHI NAGAR JAMMU
e-mail : xenpwddivgandhinagar@gmail.com
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Short e-NIT No. DGN/57 of 2024-25 Dated 04-11-2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/ Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (₹ in Lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for complete on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Providing and fixing of Gratings at road of Santok Vihar, Kunjwani (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	10.94	600	21880 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1200 Hrs) on or after 12-11-2024	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
2	Construction of drain near H/o Aman Kumar H.No. 91416 near Heritage Public School Chowadhi (Under Non Plan 2024-25)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	3.56	600	7120 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1200 Hrs) on or after 12-11-2024	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
3	Construction of drain near Kashmir Medicate on Bathindi road (Under M.H-3054) Non Plan	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	2.47	600	4940 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1200 Hrs) on or after 12-11-2024	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class

Position of AAA :- Accorded by Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle South Jammu vide order No. 125 of 2024 dated 30-10-2024 for S.No. 1, Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle South Jammu vide order No. 104 of 2024 dated 10-09-2024 dated 22-10-2024 for S.No. 2 and Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle South Jammu vide order No. 116 of 2024 dated 19-10-2024 for S.No. 3.

Position of TS :- Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle South Jammu vide order No. 138 of October 2024 dated 22-10-2024 for S.No. 2 and Sanctioned by this office vide Order No. 91/PWD Div. Gandhi Nagar/2024-25 dated 25-10-2024 for S.No. 3.

Project Authority :- Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle South Jammu

Major Head of Account :- Under Non Plan

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-11-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04-11-2024 to 11-11-2024, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	07-11-2024 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu

4	Bid submission Start Date	04-11-2024
5	Bid Submission End Date	11-11-2024 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	12-11-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu at the time of allotment.

.. Sd ..
(Er. Rahat Gupta)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Gandhi Nagar

DIP/J-6541/24

EDITORIAL

Fossil Fuels to Clean Energy

The transition from fossil fuels to clean energy is one of the defining challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and natural gas, have been primary energy sources for over a century, powering global economic growth and modern lifestyles. However, as awareness of climate change and environmental degradation has grown, so too has the urgency to shift towards cleaner, renewable sources of energy. This transition is essential for ensuring a sustainable future, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Moving from fossil fuels to clean energy requires advancements in technology, supportive policies, and a commitment from both individuals and governments worldwide.

Fossil fuels have fueled industrialization, transport, and electricity generation, but at a significant environmental cost. Burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, which trap heat and contribute to global warming. This has led to rising temperatures, melting ice caps, sea-level rise, and more frequent extreme weather events such as hurricanes, droughts, and floods. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), human activity, largely from fossil fuel consumption, has caused approximately a 1°C increase in global temperatures since the pre-industrial era, with severe consequences for ecosystems, biodiversity, and human health.

Additionally, fossil fuel extraction and use cause air pollution, with particulate matter and toxic emissions impacting respiratory health, leading to diseases like asthma and chronic bronchitis. Oil spills and coal mining devastate local ecosystems, water sources, and landscapes. These adverse environmental and health effects underscore the need for a clean energy transition.

Clean energy sources, such as solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, and bioenergy, offer sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels. They produce little to no greenhouse gas emissions during operation and are often renewable, meaning they can be harnessed indefinitely without depleting natural resources. For example, the sun provides abundant energy that can be converted to electricity through solar panels, while wind turbines harness the natural power of the wind. Hydroelectric plants convert the flow of rivers into power, and geothermal energy taps into the Earth's internal heat.

These sources of energy have numerous benefits. They reduce greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to the fight against climate change. They also decrease air and water pollution, reducing healthcare costs and improving public health. Additionally, renewable energy resources are distributed across the globe, meaning many countries have the potential to develop clean energy industries domestically, reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels and enhancing energy security.

Technological advancements have been instrumental in making clean energy more efficient, affordable, and scalable. Solar panels, for instance, have become significantly cheaper and more efficient over the past two decades, with the cost of solar electricity dropping by more than 80% since 2010. Similarly, innovations in wind turbine technology have made wind power one of the most competitive sources of electricity in many regions. Battery storage, another critical technology, is becoming more efficient and affordable, enabling the storage of renewable energy for use during times when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing.

Electric vehicles (EVs) represent another crucial development in reducing fossil fuel dependence. The transition from traditional internal combustion engines to electric motors powered by clean electricity could significantly decrease oil consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As battery technology improves, the range, affordability, and convenience of EVs are also expected to increase, making them a viable option for more people.

Governments play a vital role in the shift from fossil fuels to clean energy. Policies such as tax incentives, subsidies for renewable energy projects, carbon pricing, and renewable energy mandates help make clean energy more competitive with fossil fuels. Many countries and regions have set ambitious targets for reducing carbon emissions and increasing renewable energy capacity. For example, the European Union aims to be carbon neutral by 2050, while the United States has pledged to reduce emissions by 50-52% from 2005 levels by 2030.

In addition to national governments, local governments and cities are also adopting clean energy goals and implementing policies to promote energy efficiency, sustainable transportation, and renewable energy infrastructure. These initiatives create a favorable environment for businesses and consumers to adopt cleaner energy practices and contribute to the overall transition.

Despite the many benefits, the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy is not without challenges. One of the primary obstacles is the existing infrastructure that heavily favors fossil fuels, including power plants, transportation networks, and industrial facilities. Replacing or retrofitting this infrastructure to accommodate clean energy is costly and time-consuming.

Another challenge is energy storage and grid reliability. Renewable energy sources like solar and wind are intermittent; they depend on weather conditions and time of day, which means they don't always produce power when it's needed. Advances in energy storage technology, such as battery systems, are critical for managing this intermittency. Additionally, the workforce must be re-skilled to work in renewable energy sectors, and communities dependent on fossil fuel industries need support to ensure a just transition.

Eyeing Nov. 23 D-Day: A pointer to the way ahead

By: Sunil Gatade

All eyes are on November 23, when the Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assembly poll results will be announced. The outcome will be a pointer to which way the politics of this country will turn in the months and years ahead. Without a doubt, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has got a booster dose with the unexpected Haryana hat-trick with an overconfident Congress giving up the wicket. A clean sweep in Maharashtra and Jharkhand by the BJP would again turn the Opposition into a hapless entity. Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi will be groping for answers as to what went wrong. The feeling in Opposition circles that it was time for Mr Modi to become a thing of the past will give away to despondency. The Opposition's INDIA bloc will gasp for fresh air.

The internal dynamics within the INDIA grouping is such that all non-Congress parties feel that the grand old party is the elephant in the room and needs to be restrained at every possible opportunity. It suits the BJP to informally help them in such an endeavour. The troubled Congress keeps chanting the unity mantra, but has no idea of how to keep its allies in good humour. Next year, there are only two Assembly polls: one in Delhi at the beginning of the year and the other in Bihar, which is scheduled towards the end.

Mr Modi, who has for the first time failed to secure an absolute majority for the BJP in the Lok

Sabha elections, has a test on hand. He has to show this month that the not-so-good showing in the parliamentary polls was an aberration and he was back on the winning track. In Jharkhand, the BJP feels that it has got a winning alliance, and there is nothing much to worry about in the tussle against the chief minister Hemant Soren-led INDIA group in the state.

Maharashtra looks a hard nut to crack, with the deep inroads made by the Opposition in the Lok Sabha polls. Harsher still is the fact that the Opposition victory in 31 out of 48 Lok Sabha seats was more than a personal setback for the PM. The BJP's star campaigner had been all over Maharashtra during the Lok Sabha polls, addressing as many as 18 rallies, but the BJP-dominated Mahayuti ended up with just 17 seats, down by more than 20 from the previous 41. It was a clear rebuttal of Brand Modi and the politics practised by the Prime Minister and home minister Amit Shah.

If one leaves aside the huge last-minute sops, including the Ladki Bahin Yojana, the Eknath Shinde government has done precious little on the issue of governance. And that could be the nemesis of the ruling side if the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi gets its act together. The Modi-Shah duo is using every trick possible to divide the Opposition vote, and they do not lack the resources to do so. The troubles witnessed in the finalisation of seat allocations in the Maha Vikas Aghadi speaks volumes about the pulls and pressures in the Opposition grouping,

which feels that it has more than a winning chance. Rightly or wrongly, the vibe in the state's political circles is that Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena in the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi and Ajit Pawar's NCP in the ruling Mahayuti would not fare better due to a variety of reasons. Uddhav Thackeray might be a forceful speaker, but the Congress has the vote. Sharad Pawar's stars are on the ascendant to keep the nephew under check, and the Maratha strongman keenly strategises at the micro level too. Some feel that both the Congress and the BJP, as well as Sharad Pawar's NCP, are on the same page on trying to restrict Uddhav and his party. Plans by Raj Thackeray to go it alone as well as that of the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi, led by Prakash Ambedkar, as well as several other smaller players are being attributed to the resourcefulness of the ruling side, which wants to cut the Opposition vote. The "vote katwas" are in great demand. It is said that the ED and the CBI are also helping to keep many such players on the "right" path. The challenge at hand, once put forth by the BJP's top leader in the state, Devendra Fadnavis, is to raise the Mahayuti votes by 25 lakhs to cause an upset to the MVA. Narrowing the fight to just 25 lakh votes is a way to show the fight is just a child's play. The outcome in Maharashtra will have national ramifications. It will decide whether Narendra Modi is his own boss again or not. The Haryana hat-trick has helped him to regain composure after failing to get a majority in the Lok Sabha polls. But Hary-

ana is seen as just an aberration. So, in order to project that he has finally arrived, Mr Modi has to show that he has managed a victory in Maharashtra, the wealthiest state in the country. If he achieves this with ease, his stature will grow. and the naysayers or the Mr Doubtfuls will fall in line. In order to accomplish this, Mr Modi has essentially opened the doors of Ali Baba's cave to Marathi-speaking people and other citizens, including women, farmers, students and the youth, offering them treats they enjoy or find enjoyable to help them forget their dull lives. In order to proclaim that it is once again "Amchi Mumbai", Mr Modi is acting like Santa Claus in Maharashtra before Christmas, not to kids but to all voters, even those who are voting for the first time. BJP strategists say that all the anger against the party in the wake of the roller-coaster political developments over the past three years is a thing of the past as people have given vent to it in the Lok Sabha polls. Now it is the time for a new beginning, and so the pre-Diwali goodies will brighten the BJP lamp, goes the argument. The tussle for Maharashtra has turned into 288 individual battles in as many Assembly seats, and there is no overarching issue except the way governance went for a toss with the BJP engineering splits in two key regional parties for the sake of power. This brand of politics is on test in middle-class Maharashtra. A weaker Mr Modi has a lot to ride on the back of mercurial Maharashtra. It is a cakewalk for no one.

Pollution affects Beauty

By: Shahnaz Husain

India's air pollution levels are rising. The seasonal spike combined with pollutants emitted by factories, cars, construction materials and seasonal agriculture practices like crop stubble burning is intensifying the air pollution crisis in the country this season like in previous years.

Living in a bustling city offers countless opportunities, but it comes with a price—pollution. And urban lifestyles can take a toll on your skin. As an

The rising air Pollution has become a buzzword nowadays and is affecting the normal functioning of life due to toxic air and a heavy blanket of smog.

Living in a bustling city offers countless opportunities, but it comes with a price—pollution. And urban lifestyles can take a toll on your skin. As an urban dweller, it's crucial to understand the effects of air pollution and make informed choices to protect and rejuvenate your skin

Pollution breaks down collagen and oxidizes the lipid layer in the skin, which impairs skin-barrier function. Smog particles are generally too large to penetrate the skin, but they can disturb the barrier, resulting in dehydration, sensitivity, uneven skin tone, dullness, acne, and premature aging.

Airborne pollutants on human skin can contribute to skin cancer, skin aging, atopic dermatitis, skin discoloration, eczema, psoriasis, and can be absorbed through the skin into the body, causing a wide range of diseases.

Skin of women living in a city is more likely to age 10 per cent faster than those living in rural areas.

Airborne pollutants on human skin can contribute to skin aging, atopic dermatitis, skin discoloration, eczema, psoriasis, and acne and can be absorbed through the skin into the body, causing a wide range of diseases. While pollution takes a toll on the environment and health but it also affects natural beauty very adversely. Pollution breaks down collagen and oxidizes the lipid layer in the skin, which impairs skin barrier function.

Highly toxic air containing smoke, soot, acid, and other pollutants severely affects the skin by draining away skin

moisture which leads to allergies and pigmentation spots on the forehead and cheeks on dry and rough skin.

The toxic haze hanging in the sky cause uneven skin tone, accelerated ageing, wrinkles, and black spot on the face

For many living in big cities like in Metropolitan cities it is completely unavoidable so it is matter of reducing exposure, repairing the damage and protecting it as much as possible

Among the other organs of the body, the skin is also one of the first to bear the brunt of air pollutants, which not only attack the skin's surface but also lead to an accumulation of toxins. In fact, they are potent skin irritants. There are both long and short-term effects of pollutants. Chemical pollutants cause oxidation damage and this can lead to the manifestation of premature ageing signs on the skin, like wrinkles, loss of elasticity, dark patches, spots, etc. Chemical pollutants also disrupt the normal balance of the skin and scalp, leading to problems like dryness, sensitivity, rashes, acne, irritation or allergic reactions, dandruff, and related conditions. They also make the skin and hair dull, lacking vitality. All of us who live and work in urban areas need protective beauty care, whether we are housewives or working women. Of course, for working women, the job may involve traveling long distances to work. The skin is thus more exposed to the pollutants in the air.

Cleansing of the skin assumes more importance in order to get rid of the impurities and pollutants that are deposited on the skin. If you have dry skin, use a cleansing cream or gel. Deep clean the skin at night, neutralize it with antioxidants and create a barrier with sunscreen. Include antioxidants in your diet and skincare regime. Citrus fruits contain Vitamin C, E, and limonene which lower the risk of cancer and protect your skin from damage. Avoid cleansers containing Sodium lauryl sulphate and sodium laureth sulphates or denatured alcohols as they dry out the skin and can damage our skin barrier over time.

Use skincare rich in antioxidants. Pamper your skin with sheet masks or hydrating overnight masks to repair the damage.

For oily skin, cleansing milk or face wash may be used. For oily skin, also use a facial scrub after cleansing. Look out for products with ingredients like sandalwood, eucalyptus, mint, neem, tulsi, aloe vera, etc., when you buy cleansers. The anti-toxic and tonic properties of such ingredients have helped in clearing the skin congestion and eruptions that result from exposure to chemical pollutants. Aloe vera, for example, is also a powerful moisturizer and an antioxidant. So are ingredients like apricot kernel oil, carrot seed, wheatgerm oil, etc. the skin needs to be protected. If the skin is prone to eruptive conditions like acne, pimples, or rash, it should be protected with specialized creams that not only protect but also reduce oiliness and deal with the problem.

After cleansing, wipe the skin with a rose-based skin tonic or rose water, to complete the cleansing process and refresh the skin. Soak cotton wool in chilled rose water and tone the skin with it, patting briskly. It also improves blood circulation to the skin's surface and adds a glow. Green tea also makes a good skin toner. If there is a rash or eruptions, add a little rose water to the sandalwood paste and apply it to the face. Wash off with plain water after 15 minutes.

Anti-pollution cosmetics help to provide protection and reduce the damage caused by environmental effects. These are basically "cover creams" that form a barrier between the skin and pollutants. sandalwood protective cream is very useful to protect the skin from environmental effects. It forms a transparent protective cover. Sandalwood soothes the skin and protects it from irritative reactions and eruptive conditions. It suits all skin types and increases the skin's moisture retention ability too.

The hair also needs frequent washing if one regularly travels long distances for their work. Pollutants also collect on the scalp. Shampoo, hair rinses, serums, and conditioners help to restore normal balance if they contain ingredients like amla, Brahmi, Triphala, bhringaraj, and henna. They also coat the hair and form a protective cover. Mix one teaspoon each of vinegar and honey with one egg. Massage the mixture lightly into the scalp. Leave on for half an hour and then wash the hair. Rinse well with water.

Or, give the hair hot oil therapy. Heat pure coconut oil and apply it to the hair. Then dip a towel in hot water, squeeze out the water and wrap the hot towel around the head, like a turban. Keep it on for 5 minutes. Repeat the hot towel wrap 3 or 4 times. This helps the hair and scalp absorb the oil better. Leave the oil on overnight and wash your hair the next day.

The impurities and pollutants can also affect the eyes, causing burning or redness. The eyes should be washed with plain water several times. Soak cotton wool pads in chilled rose water and use them over the eyes as eye pads. Lie down and relax for fifteen minutes. This really helps to remove fatigue and brightens the eyes.

If one is also exposed to cold weather, poor diet, a lack of sleep, or simply stress, as many of us are. In the presence of any of these factors along with pollution, the quality of the skin can become further diminished.

To brighten the skin and even skin tone, I recommend products containing Vitamin C to be used in conjunction with richer creams. Deeply moisturizing creams can truly help repair and hydrate the skin.

Use an air purifier with a humidifier at home and the workplace to lessen the effects of pollution. Humidifiers make the air breathable and maintain the room's humidity.

Eat your greens, Vitamin C rich foods, jaggery and drink loads of fluids rich in antioxidants. Antioxidants can neutralize the effects of pollutants. Lemon, orange, amla, green vegetables, grapefruit, tomatoes and potatoes are some examples of Vitamin C rich foods.

My advice is while rely on healthy eating, drinking water, and regular exercise to keep your skin healthy. Making the right choices about our skincare regimen is an equally or even more important part of a successful beauty routine.

It's a rough deal for your skin, but there are plenty of ways to care for it in the face of pollution.

(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the Herbal Queen of India)

GCW Bhagwati Nagar organises seminar on "Cyber Security and Awareness"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 6: IQAC and Cyber Jagrookta Cell of Govt. College for Women (GCW) Bhagwati Nagar organised a seminar on the topic "Cyber Security and Awareness" under the patronage of Dr. Meeru Abrol, Principal of the college on Wednesday.

The seminar aimed to raise awareness about the importance of cyber security in today's digital age, educate participants on the evolving landscape of cyber threats, and provide insights into best practices for safeguarding personal and organizational data.

Prof. Shelly Kalsi, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Sciences from Govt. Degree College R.S.Pura was the resource person



on the occasion, who set the tone for the event by addressing the growing significance of digital security.

The resource person emphasized on the global impact of cyber threats and the need for robust security measures, both for individuals and enterprises.

Prof. Shelly Kalsi, Cyber Security Special-

ist, discussed the current trends in cyber threats, including phishing attacks, ransom ware, and data breaches. She further highlighted the legal implications of cyber-crimes and the importance of cyber law in ensuring safe digital environments.

Principal of the college, Dr. Meeru Abrol, while addressing the

gathering, spoke about the Cyber security as a shared responsibility across various stakeholders, including individuals, organizations, and governments and therefore collaboration and communication are important keys in combating cyber threats effectively.

She stressed on the need to educate users

about the risks and methods used by cyber criminals are critical to reducing the likelihood of falling victim to cyber-attacks.

The event featured a series of presentations, interactive discussions, and expert opinions from professionals in the field of cyber security.

The participants were encouraged to engage in interactive sessions designed to deepen their understanding of cyber security concepts. The hands-on activities were also held, where participants learned how to create strong passwords and recognized the signs of phishing emails.

The seminar was organised by Prof. Nisha Bhagat, IQAC Coordinator and Convener Cyber Jagrookta Cell of the college.

ICDS (Poshan) Department hosts Awareness Camp in Model Panchayat Lower Chatroo A

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Nov 6: The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Department organized an awareness camp in Panchayat Lower Chatroo A, Inderwal Block.

The event, led by Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) Inderwal, Kuldeep Kumar, and CDPO Nagsemi, Najeeb Latief, with Supervisor Shenaz Nazir and under the guidance of Programme Officer ICDS, Rishi Sharma was attended by Anganwadi workers and beneficiaries from across the

block. The camp focused on saturating the ICDS Department's key welfare schemes, including the Ladli Beti scheme and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

Anganwadi workers were briefed on conducting door-to-door awareness drives to ensure that information about these schemes reaches all eligible beneficiaries in the area and no eligible beneficiary is left out. Panchayat Lower Chatroo A has been designated as one Model Panchayat across the District by Deputy Com-

missioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Shavan with a target of saturating 78 key indicators of various departments. Aligned with this vision, the ICDS Department is actively working to saturate its schemes and indicators within these panchayats, ensuring comprehensive support for women and children.

This awareness camp is part of ICDS's ongoing efforts to ensure that eligible individuals in the Inderwal block benefit fully from government welfare schemes, contributing to improved social and economic outcomes in the region.



Dimple leads celebratory rally to welcome passage of resolutions on art 370 in assembly



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 6: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, led a celebratory rally on Janipur High Court Road in Jammu to welcome the recent passage of resolutions in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly advocating for the return of Article 370, Article 35-A, and the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

The rally, which included distributing sweets, was marked by Dimple's emotional address, where he expressed gratitude to Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the alliance government, and supporting parties for their roles in passing these significant resolutions.

In his speech, Dimple celebrated the event as a historic victory for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the culmination of years of effort

and protest. He emphasized his commitment to restoring Jammu and Kashmir's former status, a promise he made on August 5, 2019, after the articles were initially abrogated.

He recounted the many hunger strikes, protests, and legal challenges he undertook to bring attention to the cause.

Dimple also called on the Chief Minister to begin implementing the conditions of the Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh.

He urged the government to revive the traditional Darbar Move, which he sees as a key aspect of Jammu and Kashmir's identity, and to pursue the unification of Ladakh, Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK), Gilgit, and Baltistan with Jammu and Kashmir.

In a message to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, Dimple demand-

ed clarity on the BJP's stance regarding the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's Dogra statehood. He criticized the BJP's alleged disregard for the region's heritage and claimed that the party's actions on August 5, 2019, marked a "black day" for Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Dimple, the BJP's actions dismantled Maharaja Hari Singh's Dogra state and nullified the Instrument of Accession, a point he believes has betrayed the people's trust.

Other prominent figures supporting the rally included Manjeet Anand, Rupesh Bhat, Sachin Soi, Bunt Dogra, Sat Kumar Divanshi, and Sanjay.

They joined Dimple in calling for the protection of Jammu and Kashmir's unique identity, culture, and demography and for the BJP MLAs to respect and uphold the resolutions passed by the assembly.

JKBS expresses shock over Surinder Kumar Sargotra's demise

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 6: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) at its meeting held here on Wednesday, expressed deep shock over the untimely demise of Surinder Kumar Sargotra (urf Sethi) who died in the prime age after prolonged illness.

While speaking, the JKBS' General Secretary R.L.Kaith said, Surinder Kumar Sargotra was full of strength and intellectual capability.

All JKBS members prayed to Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and give immense strength to the bereaved family to bear this immeasurable loss boldly.

JKBS members who attended the meeting included Messrs Dilay Ram Kaith (Chairman),



Des Raj Kaith (Dy Chairman), Rachhpal Kaith (President), Birender Kaith (Sr Vice President), Tilak Raj Bassa (Vice President), R.L.Kaith (General Secretary), Bishan Lal Tugga (Jt Secretary), Ved Parkash Sargotra (Press Secretary), Karan Kumar Kaith (Treasurer), Hans Raj Loria, Darshan Kumar Bassa, Naresh Kumar Kaith, Jagdish Raj Kaith, Joginder Kaith, Janak Raj Sargotra and Banty Lal Sargotra.

Chaos continues in J&K Assembly as BJP stages protest against passing of resolution on Special status

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 6: After a one-hour adjournment, the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly remained in turmoil today as the opposition BJP continued its strong protest against a controversial resolution passed earlier. The resolution, introduced by Deputy Chief Minister and passed by the Speaker, faced fierce resistance from BJP members led by Opposition Leader Sunil Sharma.

Despite requests from the Speaker for decorum,

BJP legislators escalated their dissent, chanting slogans against the resolution and moving to the well of the House to intensify their demonstration. Some BJP members even climbed onto benches in an open display of opposition.

Addressing the disruption, the Speaker urged the opposition to consider moving a vote of confidence if they opposed his authority on the resolution. However, as the situation showed no signs of calming, the Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow.

Kulgam journalists unite, demand 'Press Club' 10-member joint core committee established



Top News Report

KULGAM, Nov 6: In a move to unify media voices in South Kashmir, the Kulgam Working Journalists Association (KWJA) and the Journalists Union of Kulgam (JUoK) held a joint core group meeting today, calling for the establishment of a press club for the welfare of journalists in the district. A 10-member core committee has been established.

This meeting brought both associations together to advocate for a unified platform and a designated space for media professionals in Kulgam, a need

that remains unmet. "A suitable place for media persons to meet, where seniors and juniors can come together to discuss stories for the larger interest of Kulgam, is essential. Today, we stand united in our demand for a 'Press Club' for the Kulgam media fraternity," said a senior KWJA journalist.

JUoK President Gh Nabi Khanday said that "A press club in Kulgam is more than a building; it's a vital resource for journalists who face daily challenges in covering critical stories. This collaboration is about creating a secure, collabora-

tive environment for our community."

A spokesperson for the core group emphasized, "Our aim is straightforward yet essential: to establish a platform that promotes press freedom, unity, and professional growth. We are optimistic that this unity will bring us closer to that vision."

The associations appealed to Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Cabinet Minister Sakina Itoo, and other leaders to support the media fraternity's plea for a press club in Kulgam, which has been a longstanding demand since 2007.

District Doda Volleyball Championship to start from Nov 19

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 6: The Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir announced the District Doda Volleyball Championship for the 2024-25 season.

This championship, sponsored by the J&K Sports Council, will be held from November 19 to 20, 2024, at the Government Degree College in Bhadarwah.

The association is eagerly preparing for a successful event, providing local athletes an opportunity to showcase their volleyball skills on a competitive platform.

All registered volleyball

clubs, institutions, and individual players are invited to participate in this exciting district-level competition.

To ensure a smooth registration process, interested teams and players are requested to submit their entry forms by November 15, 2024.

The championship aims to foster sportsmanship, promote local talent, and encourage athletic development within the region.

For additional information, players and club representatives can contact Zahoor Elhi at 9596719295 or Muddasar Bhat at 9906162886.

Article 370 is gone forever, no one can bring it back: Advocate Ishant

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 6: Advocate Ishant Gupta, State IT Head BJP Jammu & Kashmir, strongly criticized the bill introduced by the NC-Congress alliance in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, which aims to restore Article 370.

He called this move "unconstitutional and misleading," emphasizing that it is a misguided attempt to mislead people and push the region backward. "Article 370 is gone, and no one can bring it back," Gupta stated. "Jammu and Kashmir are fully integrated into Bharat now. We won't go back to the days of two flags and two constitutions. Our future lies in unity and equality with the rest of Bharat, not in reviving old divisions."

Gupta explained that the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 brought major benefits to the region, including opportunities for investment, growth, and development. With central laws now applied to Jammu



and Kashmir, governance has become more transparent and accountable. Economic opportunities have increased as companies and investors are now open to engaging in the region, benefiting the local economy and creating jobs. Social progress has been significant as well, Gupta added.

Before Article 370 was abrogated, many communities, such as Dalits, refugees, and women, faced discrimination and lacked rights. Today, these groups enjoy equal rights, just as citizens do in the rest of Bharat.

Women in Jammu and Kashmir now have inheritance rights even if they marry outside the region—a crucial step towards gender equality. "Trying to bring back

Article 370 is not only illegal but shows NC-Congress's lack of commitment to real progress for Jammu and Kashmir," Gupta said. "Instead of focusing on development, jobs, and people's well-being, they are wasting time on outdated issues. This bill is just a tool to serve their political interests, not the people."

Gupta also highlighted the improved security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, which has led to a boost in tourism, benefiting local businesses and creating more jobs for young people. According to Gupta, the abrogation of Article 370 has helped bring stability, and any attempt to restore it would only disrupt the peace and unity that have taken root under Prime Minister Modi's government.

"BJP is committed to a strong, peaceful, and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir. Article 370 is a closed chapter, and we stand by that," Gupta said, urging leaders to focus on a brighter future for the people instead of reviving divisive issues.

BJP inaugurates virtual membership at Party headquarter Srinagar



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 6: The inauguration of virtual membership took place today at the Bharatiya Janata Party Office J1 in Jawahar Nagar, under the guidance and leadership of Sat Sharma, President of the UT Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party.

Sat Sharma officially launched the program, while Ashok Kaul, General Secretary of the Organization for the UT Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party, delivered an insightful

address to the participants who joined virtually, emphasizing the significance of membership.

The program commenced at 9 AM at the BJP office in Jawahar Nagar, attended by distinguished leaders, including Ashok Bhat, District President of the Srinagar Bharatiya Janata Party.

The live session focused on the ongoing membership drive. Notably, individuals can obtain membership by dialing the mobile number 8800002024. Upon calling, participants will receive an SMS con-

taining a link that, when clicked, will redirect them to the website to complete the membership form, thereby confirming their membership.

It is pertinent to note that the BJP has surpassed a membership total of 18 crore in earlier and the target is to exceed this figure current year.

Additionally, it was highlighted that any member who successfully recruits a minimum of fifty individuals within their constituency will be recognized as an active member and will be eligible for positions within the party.

The cast of Punjabi film Hey Siri, Ve Siri, is upbeat about the plot

Hey Siri, Ve Siri, an upcoming Punjabi film, though shot largely in the UK, has a strong connect with Punjab. The idea germinated from a news item. A family from Punjab, settled in Australia, got their siri (field worker) flown over. Director Avtar Singh, who has retained the farmer within him along with pursuing cinema, asked his siri, Mithu, on what he thinks about such a move. It led to a riveting conversation, further paving the way for an entertaining script by Aman Sidhu. The film's team came together on Tuesday for its trailer launch at Mohali. A fun banter, led by director Avtar Singh, here is all we know about this comedy!

"I have had a close partnership with our siri, Mithu. When I was studying in a hostel at Panjab University, he would often park the family tractor on campus and join me in my room," shares Avtar. Joining him are films lead actors — Arya Babbar, Anita Devgan and Hardip Gill. "The film was to go to someone else, but it somehow came to me," says Arya Babbar, who is onto his seventh Punjabi film now. "Calling a siri your servant would be lowering the status a siri enjoys in a village. I would call it a companion at best."



The film follows a family settled in the UK, who call their siri over and the drama ensues. "A lot of Punjabi films are shot abroad for many reasons. But here, we had a genuine reason to shoot the project in UK for that's an integral part of the story," says Arya. Right from his debut Punjabi film Yaar Annmulle in 2011, Arya has continued working consistently. "Yaar Annmulle, Jatts In Golmaal and Naughty Jatts, my first three Punjabi films did well by the grace of God, but let me admit, I didn't dub for any of them. When I tried, the film tanked," he laughed. But that hasn't made Arya stop trying — a Punjabi tutor in place, he

dubbed for this one!

The film has real life couple — Hardip Gill and Anita Devgan — play siri and his wife on screen. A little late to reach the venue of the launch, Anita shared, "Sorry, we are coming from Amritsar. The tyre of our vehicle got punctured, then there were too many traffic lights... These are the only lies I can tell."

Veteran theatre artistes, it's their first film with Arya but they felt the connection for long. "We have worked with Raj ji in films and Nadira Babbar ji loves Amritsar and we have shared a close bond with her due to theatre. Now we can say we share the same deep bond with

Arya, who is fun, both on and off the screen," said Hardip. Arya says, "They are the lead couple, Shweta Indira Kumar and I learnt a lot from them."

Yaar Annmulle brought him instant fame in Punjabi circuits, he levels the credit to his father for the same. "When I debuted in Punjabi industry, people gave me love for I was Raj Babbar's son. Even today more people here know me as Guru than Arya! Else, tell me has any actor from outside Punjab been accepted like I am in Punjabi films?" he asked.

With so many actors in the family, he is asked if like the Deol clan, they also plan a film like Apne, "That would be lovely. Probably we will make a Punjabi-Marathi film on account of Prateik (Babbar)," he smiles.

Talking of Babbar family, Happy Babbar enjoys a fan following of his own! "You won't believe it, when I am away I have to make video calls to my four-legged baby and pamper him to the moon once back."

Two more Punjabi films on the anvil, Arya is happy enjoying his time as a standup comic. But right now, he is looking forward to the response to Hey Siri, Ve Siri, which releases on November 22.

Kim Kardashian dazzles in Princess Diana's iconic cross pendant at LACMA Art + Film Gala



Reality TV star and business mogul Kim Kardashian made heads turn at the recent LACMA Art + Film Gala. She opted for a Gucci gown and cream cape. She complemented it

with a piece of historic jewellery. Kim Kardashian opted for an Atallah Cross Necklace, which was previously worn by Princess Diana.

The reality star bought the pendant, which the late Princess of Wales wore on a long pearl chain in 1987 at the Birthright Charity Gala in London, pairing it with a royal purple velvet gown by Catherine Walker. Created in 1920 by court jeweller Garrard, this one-of-a-kind piece is adorned with square-cut amethysts and circular-cut diamonds.

"The reality star Kim Kardashian bought the pendant, which has square-cut amethysts and is accented by circular-cut diamonds in 2023 at Sotheby's annual Royal and Noble auction, paying \$197,453 for the striking piece, the diamonds of which weigh in at 5.25 carats," a source said.

The gala honoured artiste Simone Leigh and filmmaker Baz Luhrmann, and it was attended by stars like Kaia Gerber, Blake Lively, Colman Domingo, Dev Patel, Anna Wintour, Troye Sivan, Charli XCX, Cara Delevingne, Ricky Martin, Chloe Sevigny, Javier Bardem and Andrew Garfield.

Kim Kardashian also attended the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures Gala on October 19 and stunned everyone with her glamorous look, which she shared on Instagram.

Sharda Sinha: Voice of Chhath falls silent, the songs live on

Her songs echoed with the sounds of generations of folk singers who came before her, her voice earthy and imbued with the memory of home. Sharda Sinha, also called 'Begum Akhtar of Mithila', was the melody behind Chhath Puja and many a celebration in the region — and outside it too.

The singer, whose voice became synonymous with the folk songs woven in the rich tapestry of everyday culture of Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh, died on Tuesday night following a long battle with multiple myeloma. It was just four days after her 72nd birthday on November 1.

That today is the first day of Chhath celebrations, a festival she was always associated with, is just one of the strange twists of life and fate.

For millions, at home or thousands of miles away anywhere, hers was the voice that tugged at the heart and called out Chhath, a festival dedicated to the sun god and the biggest in the region's cultural calendar. She always released a song during the festival and did so this year too notwithstanding her ill health.

A trained classical singer who effortlessly melded the folk in her many songs, Sinha was hailed as the voice of her people and often called 'Bihar Kokila'.

The Padma Bhushan recipient, whose career spanned more than five decades, lent her voice to songs in Maithili, Bhojpuri and Magahi languages. Some of her popular tracks are "Chhathi Maiya Aayi Na Duaariya", "Kartik Maas Ijoriya", "Ho Deenanath", "Barh Re Jatan Se", "Dwar Chekai", "Patna Se", and "Koyal Bin".

Sinha, mourned by many who grew up listening to her songs, will also be remembered for her Bollywood songs, including "Taar Bijli" from "Gangs of Wasseypur-II", "Babul" from "Hum Aapke Hain Koun" and "Kahe Toh Se Sajna"



from "Maine Pyar Kiya". She is credited for providing dignity to the classical expression of folk music or "lok geet", overlooked and sometimes lost in the noise of what's defined as mainstream, as well as promoting its popularity among the masses as well as the classes.

"Wasseypur" composer Sneha Khanwalkar described Sinha's voice as "pure wine" and recalled how they first met.

"Anurag (Kashyap) suggested, 'Do you want to try Sharda ji?' So I went to her house and I sang a few lines to her. She brought out her harmonium and sang those lines so I thought this is the best..." Khanwalkar recalled in a video about the making of the film's music.

Sinha, who had been suffering from multiple myeloma since 2017, had been on oxygen support in the intensive care unit of the Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital (IRCH), the cancer institute of AIIMS, since October 27.

It has been an incredibly difficult time for her family, and her children Vandana and Anshuman, who kept fans updated about her health through social media.

Just weeks ago, they lost their father Braj Kishore Sinha to brain haemorrhage after a fall. It was a hard blow for the already ailing Sinha.

Born on November 1, 1952 in Bihar's Supaul district, Sinha was initi-

ated into classical music by Pandit Raghu Jha, an eminent khayal singer of Panchgachhiya Gharana. She then trained under Pandit Sitaram Hari Dandekar, a khayal virtuoso and later from Panna Devi, a contemporary of 'Malika-e-Ghazal' Begum Akhtar and an exponent of thumri and dadra.

Lycrist Hriday Narayan Jha, Sinha's frequent collaborator, said the singer would leave no stone unturned when it came to her craft and would consult with elders of her family before recording the songs.

"I am proud to have written songs for Sharda Sinha. She did full justice to those songs, even made them better. That's the reason people connect so much with her voice. She received many big offers to sing songs for Hindi films but she never made any compromises with her folk singing style," Jha added.

Sinha was a Nritya Visharad (Manipuri) and also held a master's degree in Indian classical music-vocal and a Ph.D. She has also been the recipient of Sangeet Natak Academy Award in 2000, the Padma Shri in 1991, and the Padma Bhushan in 2018.

Sinha became a rage when she came out with her debut Maithili number "Dularua Bhaiya" back in 1971.

A tribute to poet Vidyapati, known as Maithil Kokil, in 1983 earned

her recognition in countries such as Russia, China, the UK and the US. Sinha made sure to keep up with the changing times.

She would often share videos of her songs, tribute to music legends like Lata Mangeshkar and festive greetings on her official YouTube channel, which has close to 75,000 subscribers.

Her bio on Instagram, which has 269,000 followers, reads: "I sing the folk tradition in folk tunes. I hum the emotion of my mind in songs, completely dedicated to folk voices, I am called Sharda."

As a cultural ambassador of the Government of India, Sinha performed in many countries, including Mauritius, Germany, Belgium and Holland. The singer, who joined All India Radio in the 1980s, was a "top grade" artiste of the state-owned public radio broadcaster.

She also performed at All India Radio concerts and cultural festivals across India. Sinha also served the Department of Music, Women's College, Samastipur (L.N.M.U. Darbhanga) Bihar for more than four decades.

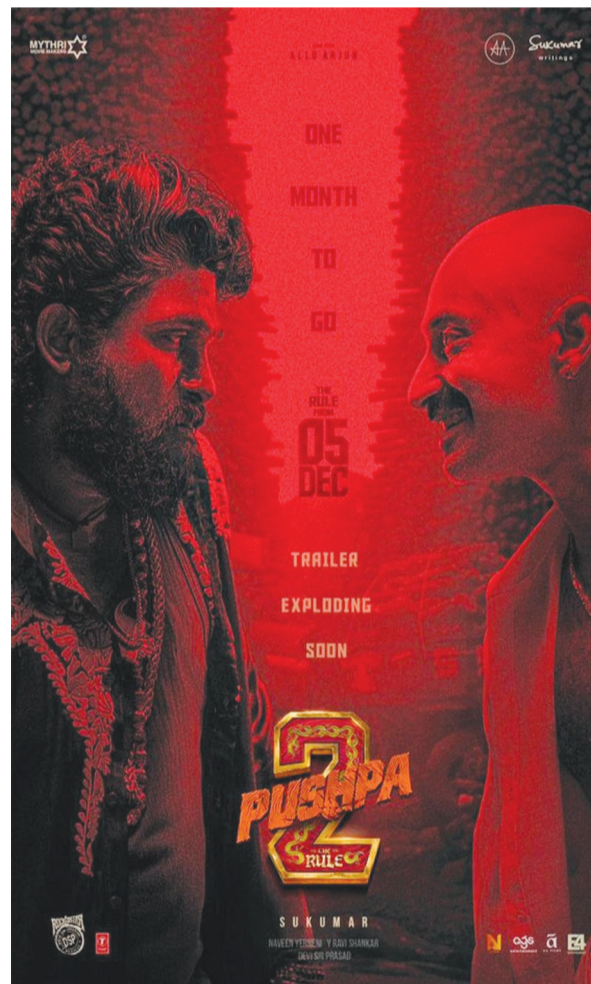
Over the years, she received various honours besides the Padma awards. These include the Rashtriya Devi Ahilya Samman, Bihar Kala Puraskar, Bihar Ratna, Bhojpuri Ratna, Mithila Vibhuti Samman.

Her son Anshuman manages the Sharda Sinha Art & Culture Foundation in his mother's name.

According to her official YouTube page, the foundation aims towards "showcasing and preserving various aspects of culture of Bihar primarily and culture of north India in general."

She turned 72 on Diwali day and breathed her last on day one of Chhath... the voice and the artiste forever intertwined with both days for her legions of fans. In death as in life, Sinha will play on.

Face-off between Allu Arjun, Fahadh Faasil: New 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' poster out



Telugu superstar Allu Arjun, who is awaiting the release of his upcoming movie

'Pushpa 2: The Rule', has shared a new poster from the film. The poster features

Allu and Malayalam star Fahadh Faasil in a face-off.

The poster has shades of crimson. While Allu's titular character is a sandalwood smuggler in the film, Fahadh's character is a Haryana cop.

The poster marks a one-month countdown to the release of the film. 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' went through a production delay as the makers moved its release date from August 15 to December 6.

The release date was once again changed to December 5 to leverage the box-office ahead of the release of the Vicky Kaushal-starrer 'Chhava' which is based on the life of Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the son of Indian warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

'Chhava', which is directed by Laxman Utekar, incidentally also stars Rashmika Mandanna, who portrays the character of Srivalli in the 'Pushpa' franchise.

'Pushpa 2: The Rule' is undoubtedly the most awaited film of the year and is sure to break records upon its release. With the excitement reaching new heights after the release of its thrilling teaser and songs, it's hard for the audience to wait any longer for this mega entertainer.

Come December 5, the world will witness Pushpa and his unparalleled aura on the big screen.

Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' is directed by Sukumar.

The music of the film is composed by Devi Sri Prasad who earlier won the National Award for his chartbuster soundtrack in 'Pushpa: The Rise'.

'Pushpa: The Rise', which was released in the thick of the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, emerged as a box-office winner at a time when the majority of theatres across the nation were shut down.

Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal's production debut Girls Will Be Girls nominated for Gotham Awards

Actors Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal's production debut "Girls Will Be Girls", directed by Shuchi Talati, has been nominated for the Gotham awards in the breakthrough director category.

The Awards are recognised for honouring independent films.

This year, the Gotham Awards are led by notable contenders such as Sean Baker's "Anora" and Zendaya-starrer "Challengers".

"Girls Will Be Girls" has garnered international acclaim, winning two major awards at the Sundance Film Festival and multiple awards at MAMI recently.

"I am incredibly honored to be recognized by the Gotham Awards. This nomination is not just a personal milestone; it reflects the collective efforts, creativity, and passion of everyone involved in Girls Will Be Girls."

Our film seeks to illuminate the complexities of female experiences in a fresh and engaging way, and I hope it resonates deeply with audiences. This recognition inspires us to continue pushing



boundaries in storytelling," Talati said in a statement.

Chadha and Fazal said they are "immensely proud of Shuchi and the entire team" behind "Girls Will Be Girls".

"This nomination is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and vision that went into creating this film. As producers, we have always aimed to tell authentic stories that challenge societal norms, and it's thrilling to see our work gaining recognition on such a pres-

tigious platform. We look forward to the film's release in India and are excited for audiences to experience what we believe is a significant addition to contemporary cinema," the actor couple said in a joint statement.

Starring Preeti Panigrahi, Kani Kusruti, and Kesav Binoy Kiron, the film follows the journey of Mira, a 16-year-old girl whose rebellious awakening is intertwined with her mother's unfulfilled coming-of-age experiences.

'Let's work for...': PM Modi congratulates friend Trump on 'historic win'

NEW DELHI, Nov 6 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday congratulated Donald Trump on his "historic win" in the US Presidential election.

"Heartiest congratulations my friend @realDonaldTrump on your historic election victory. As you build on the successes of your previous term, I look forward to renewing our collaboration to further strengthen the India-US Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership."

"Together, let's work for the betterment of our people and to promote global peace, stability and prosperity," Modi said.

Meanwhile, global leaders also joined in to congratulate the Republican who claimed victory in the presidential contest after Fox News projected



that he had defeated Democrat Kamala Harris.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu congratulated Trump on what he hailed as an "historic return" to the White House.

"Your historic return to the White House offers a new beginning for America and a

powerful commitment to the great alliance between Israel and America," Netanyahu said on X.

French President Emmanuel Macron also congratulated Trump for his win.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hailed Trump's win as "impressive" victory.

"I appreciate President Trump's commitment to the 'peace through strength' approach in global affairs. This is exactly the principle that can practically bring just peace in Ukraine closer," Zelenskyy said on X social network.

Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala said, "Our shared goal is to ensure that the relations between our countries remain at the highest level, despite changes in administration, and that we continue to develop them for the benefit of our citizens."

NATO chief Mark Rutte said, "I just congratulated Donald Trump on his election as President of the United States. His leadership will again be key to keeping our Alliance strong. I look forward to working with him again to advance peace through strength through NATO."

2019 demolition: SC slams UP authorities, directs it pay Rs 25 lakh to house owner

The Bench further asked the UP chief secretary to conduct an inquiry into the matter pertaining to the illegal demolition in Maharajganj district.



NEW DELHI, Nov 6 (Agencies): Coming down heavily on the Uttar Pradesh authorities for its "high-handed" approach, the

Supreme Court on Wednesday directed it to compensate a man, whose house was razed in 2019 for road widening, with Rs 25 lakh.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra further asked the UP chief secretary to conduct an inquiry into the matter pertaining to the illegal demolition in Maharajganj district.

"You can't come with bulldozer and demolish the house overnight," remarked the bench, which was hearing the matter pertaining to demolition, which took place in 2019 for the road widening project.

Answered all questions, told them truth: Siddaramaiah after deposing before Lokayukta police

MYSURU, Nov 6 (Agencies): Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said he has answered all questions posed to him by Lokayukta police in the MUDA case and he has told them the "truth".

The CM, who has been named as accused number 1 in the FIR lodged by the Lokayukta police, is facing allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife Parvathi B M by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

The Lokayukta police on Wednesday questioned Siddaramaiah for about two hours.

"Everything has happened legally, BJP and JD(S) are making false allegations....I have answered all questions posed to me by Lokayukta Police, they have recorded it," Siddaramaiah said.

Speaking to reporters after appearing before Lokayukta police, he said: "...a false case was made against me, I was questioned, I have told the truth."

Asked whether he has been told by Lokayukta police that he may be asked to appear once again, he said, "No..."



Siddaramaiah appeared before the Lokayukta police in response to the summons issued to him and responded to questions put to him by a team led by Lokayukta Superintendent of Police (SP) T J Udes, official sources said.

They had on October 25 questioned his wife, who has been named as accused number 2.

Siddaramaiah, his wife, brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy and Devaraju -- from whom Swamy had purchased a land and gifted it to Parvathi -- and others have been named in the FIR registered by the Mysuru-located Lokayukta police establishment on September 27.

Swamy and Devaraju have already deposed before the Lokayukta police.

BJP, PM Modi 'trying to destroy' Constitutional values: Priyanka Gandhi

WAYANAD(KERALA), Nov 6 (Agencies): Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the UDF candidate in the Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll, on Wednesday alleged that the BJP and its leader Narendra Modi were "trying to destroy" the Constitutional values of equality, justice and secularism.

Continuing her attack on the saffron party, Priyanka claimed that the last 10 years saw a politics of divisiveness in the country by the BJP which tried to distract the people from their real problems to stay in power.

Addressing a corner meeting in Cherukode in Wandoor constituency in Malappuram district, she said that when such politics become powerful in a



country, then there is no focus on resolution of the problems faced by the people in their daily lives.

The Congress leader, on the fourth day of her five-day bypoll campaign in Wayanad constituency, further alleged that under the BJP rule, there was no support system for farmers or medium and small businesses in the country.

She said that small and medium businesses were the "backbone of the country's economy" and they provide a lot of employment, "but they need support, just like the farmers".

She also reiterated that despite Wayanad producing high-quality agricultural products, including spices, many farmers see no future in agriculture, with resi-

dents, including students, migrating abroad for better job opportunities and higher education.

She also highlighted issues such as lack of basic drinking water, education and health-care facilities in the hill constituency.

Priyanka said that she was a "fighter" and if given a chance will fight for the people of Wayanad in the Parliament and every other platform to ensure their issues are resolved.

"I will not back down. I will fight for you. I will not disappoint you. We are family now," she said.

Besides the corner meeting at Cherukode, Priyanka will hold similar meetings at Thuvor and Kalikavu Town in Wandoor assembly constituency and Pookot-

tumpadam in Nilambur assembly constituency, during the day.

The Wayanad constituency comprises seven Assembly segments: Mananthavady (ST), Sulthan Bathery (ST), and Kalpetta in Wayanad district; Thiruvambady in Kozhikode district; and Eranad, Nilambur, and Wandoor in Malappuram district.

Priyanka resumed her second campaign phase on Sunday, holding public and corner meetings alongside her brother, Rahul Gandhi, in the hill constituency.

The Congress general secretary, who is making her electoral debut, will remain in Kerala until November 7.

The by-election for the Wayanad seat is scheduled for November 13.

UP to bypass UPSC in appointing DGP; Opposition smells Shah-Yogi power struggle

NEW DELHI, Nov 6 (Agencies): On the eve of bypolls to nine assembly seats, BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh is all set to enact a law for the appointment of the state's Director General of Police at the local level, bypassing the existing Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) process for such appointments.

CM Yogi Adityanath-led state Cabinet has approved Appointment Rules, 2024, which provide for an independent mechanism to select the DGP through a committee headed by a retired High Court judge. The selection committee will also consist of the Chief Secretary, a UPSC representative, Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission chairman or nominee, Home Department additional chief secretary or principal secretary and

a retired state DGP as members.

The new guidelines say that a person, to be eligible for selection, must have six months service left on the date of creation of the vacancy — a provision Opposition Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav signalled could favour UP's current acting DGP Prashant Kumar.

"I have heard that arrangements are being made to give a permanent post to a senior officer and extend his tenure by 2 years... The question is whether the person making the arrangement will himself stay for 2 years or not. Is this an attempt to take the reins from Delhi into one's own hands? Delhi vs Lucknow 2.0," Yadav said, insinuating tensions between Yogi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

AAP leader Sanjay

Singh also said the move indicated that Shah wanted to appoint his DGP and Yogi wanted his own say. Politics apart, UP rules conform to the Supreme Court's landmark 2006 judgment in the police reforms case filed by retired UP DGP Prakash Singh.

Singh today told this correspondent that the SC had in 2006 itself clarified that its directions on the matter would apply only till the time the Centre or the state enact their own legislation on the subject. "Any state government can make its own law with respect to the appointment of DGP. Until 2006, DGPs were being appointed arbitrarily. In 2006, the SC laid down a procedure whereby states were required to send panels of potential DGP appointees to UPSC,

which would return three names to the state government to choose from. This procedure gave dominance to the UPSC in the preparation of the DGP panel as the CM was obligated to choose from the panel the UPSC returned. The new UP rules will give the dominance back to the state," Singh said, adding that it was a good move because the UPSC system was time consuming and had led to conflicts with states with several states choosing to appoint only acting DGPs (instead of permanent) to bypass the UPSC route.

Pradesh itself has only appointed ad hoc acting DGPs for three years. Importantly, UP would not be the only state to have a law to appoint the top cop. Punjab, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh already have such laws.

New breed of monopolists deciding what you read, watch: Rahul Gandhi

Rahul Gandhi said the rise of a new breed of monopolists has led to the decimation of lakhs of businesses, making it difficult to generate jobs.

NEW DELHI, Nov 6 (Agencies): Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi alleged that a "new breed of monopolists" were controlling the country's governing institutions and regulators. The Raebareilly MP, in an editorial in news agency, said, due to these "oligarchic groups", lakhs of businesses have been decimated, making it difficult to generate jobs.

Gandhi said these "match-fixing" monopoly groups have amassed colossal wealth amid rising inequality.

"The original East India Company wound up over 150 years ago, but the raw fear it then generated is back. A new breed of monopolists has taken its place. They have amassed colossal wealth, even as India has become far more unequal and unfair for everybody else," he said.



The Congress MP's opinion piece is in line with his attack on the BJP's "monopoly model" in recent months. Gandhi has accused the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government of running a "monopoly model" that has devastated micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), leading to job losses.

In his editorial, Gandhi asserted that hundreds of India's "brilliant and dynamic business leaders" were scared of these monopolists. "Bharat Mata is mother

to all her children. The monopolisation of her resources and power, this blatant denial of the many for the sake of a chosen few, has wounded her," he said.

The Gandhi family scion said competing with these monopolists was akin to "fighting the machinery of the Indian state".

"Their core competence is not products, consumers or ideas, it is their ability to control India's governing institutions and regulators -- and, in surveillance," he said.

"Unlike you, these groups decide what Indians read and watch, they influence how Indians think and what they speak. Today, market forces do not determine success, power relations do," Gandhi highlighted.

However, Gandhi pointed out that there was a "tiny sample" of homegrown companies that have innovated and chosen to play by the rules and gave examples like Mahindra, Titan, Lenskart, Manyavar, Zomato etc.

"The government cannot be allowed to support one business at the expense of all others, much less support benami equations in the business system," he said.

He also said that these "big monopolists" were not "evil individuals", but the outcome of the deficiencies of our societal and political environment.

Puducherry rape horror: First auto driver, then techies assault 16-year-old girl

CHENNAI, Nov 6 (Agencies): A 16-year-old girl from Mumbai was found in an extremely weakened condition at a beach in Puducherry. The girl who was visiting her family in Pondicherry for Diwali was reported missing two days ago. According to the police, she was raped by an auto-rickshaw driver and then sexually assaulted by a group of techies.

She was taken to JIPMER hospital, where medical

reports confirmed she had been sexually assaulted. The girl's mother had filed a missing person report on October 31 with the Grand Bazaar Police after the girl left home following a family argument the day before that. Two days later, the girl was discovered near Beach Road in a severely weakened condition.

Police investigations, using CCTV footage, revealed that the girl had entered an auto rickshaw driven by a

man identified as Kaja Mohideen. Instead of taking her to the requested tourist spot, Mohideen allegedly took her to a guest house and then to his home, where he raped her. He later dropped her at Auroville.

The girl then tried to get a lift from a group of techies who were on their way to Chennai where she wanted to meet her friend. However, the techies allegedly took her to a room and gangraped her, keeping her captive

in the room for two days and then sent her back to Puducherry by booking a cab.

Grand Bazaar Police have arrested Kaja Mohideen, one techie from Andhra, two from Odisha under Section 6 of POCSO, which deals with punishment for aggravated sexual assault, and Section 137 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which deals with the kidnapping and are on lookout for three more culprits.

'We made history for a reason tonight': Donald Trump claims victory in stunning comeback

Trump sweeps battleground states, defeats Harris

FLORIDA, Nov 6 (Agencies): Republican Donald Trump claimed victory in the 2024 presidential contest after Fox News projected that he had defeated Democrat Kamala Harris, which would cap a stunning political comeback four years after he left the White House.

"America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate and we made history for a reason tonight," he said early on Wednesday to a roaring crowd of supporters at the Palm Beach County Convention Center, flanked by his vice presidential running mate, Senator JD Vance, Republican leaders and members of Trump's family.

He also spent several minutes praising Elon Musk, the richest man in the world, who pumped some \$120 million into backing Trump's campaign. Trump has said he will appoint Musk to lead a government efficiency commission.

Other news outlets had yet to call the race for Trump, but he appeared on the verge of winning after capturing the battleground states of Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Georgia and holding leads in the other four, according to Edison Research.

Harris did not speak to her supporters, who had gathered at her alma mater Howard University. Her campaign co-chair, Cedric Richmond, briefly addressed the crowd after midnight, saying Harris would speak publicly on Wednesday.

"We still have votes to count," he said.

The former president was showing strength across broad swaths of the country, improving on his 2020 performance everywhere from rural areas to urban centers.

Republicans won a US Senate majority after flipping Democratic seats in West Virginia and Ohio. Neither party appeared to have an edge in the fight for



control of the House of Representatives where Republicans currently hold a narrow majority. Trump went into Election Day with a 50-50 chance of reclaiming the White House, a remarkable turnaround from January 6, 2021, when many pundits pronounced his political career to be over. That day, a mob of his supporters stormed Congress in a violent attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

Trump picked up more support from Hispanics, traditionally Democratic voters, and among lower-income households that have keenly felt the sting of price rises since the last presidential election in 2020, according to exit polls from Edison.

Trump won 45% of Hispanic voters nationwide, trailing Harris with 53% but up 13 percentage points from 2020.

About 31% of voters said the economy was their top issue, and they voted for Trump by a 79%-to-20% margin, according to exit polls. Some 45% of voters across the country said their family's financial situation was worse off today than four years ago, and they favored Trump 80% to 17%.

Global investors were increasingly pricing in a Trump win late on Tuesday. U.S. stock futures and the dollar pushed higher, while Treasury yields climbed and bitcoin rose - all flagged by analysts and investors as trades that favor a Trump victory.

No matter who won the election, history was in the making.

Trump, 78, the only president to be impeached twice and the first former president to be criminally convicted, would also become the first president to win non-consecutive terms in more than a century and would be the oldest presidential candidate ever elected.

If elected, Harris, 60, the first female vice president, would become the first woman, Black woman and South Asian American to win the presidency.

Trump outperforms 2020. Trump was earning a bigger share of the vote than he did four years ago in nearly every corner of the country.

By 12:30 a.m. ET, officials had nearly completed their count of ballots in more than 1,600 counties - about half the country - and Trump's share was up about 2 percentage points compared to 2020, reflecting a broad if not especially deep shift in Americans' support for the president they ousted four years ago.

He improved his numbers in suburban counties, rural regions and even some large cities that are historically bastions of Democratic support; in high-income counties and low-income ones; and in places where unemployment was comparatively high and in places where it is now at record lows.

Harris had banked on big mar-

gins among urban and suburban voters, but her support in those places was running well behind President Joe Biden's in the 2020 election.

Nearly three-quarters of voters said American democracy is under threat, according to the exit polls, underscoring the depth of polarisation in a nation where divisions have only grown starker during a fiercely competitive race.

Trump employed increasingly apocalyptic rhetoric while stoking unfounded fears that the election system cannot be trusted. Harris warned that a second Trump term would threaten the underpinnings of American democracy.

Hours before polls closed, Trump claimed on his Truth Social site without evidence that there was "a lot of talk about massive CHEATING" in Philadelphia, echoing his false claims in 2020 that fraud had occurred in large, Democratic-dominated cities. In a subsequent post, he also asserted there was fraud in Detroit.

"I don't respond to nonsense," Detroit City Clerk Janice Winfrey told agency.

A Philadelphia city commissioner, Seth Bluestein, replied on X, "There is absolutely no truth to this allegation." Trump voted earlier near his home in Palm Beach, Florida.

"If I lose an election, if it's a fair election, I'm gonna be the first one to acknowledge it," Trump told reporters.

Millions of Americans waited in orderly lines to cast ballots, with only sporadic disruptions reported across a handful of states, including several non-credible bomb threats that the FBI said appeared to originate from Russian email domains.

Tuesday's vote capped a dizzying race churned by unprecedented events, including two assassination attempts against Trump, Biden's surprise withdrawal and Harris' rapid rise.

S Jaishankar calls on Australian PM Anthony Albanese, discusses ties



CANBERRA, Nov 6 (Agencies): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called on Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and discussed ways to deepen the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership.

During the meeting, Mr Jaishankar also conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's greeting to Mr Albanese. The minister is on an official

visit to Australia from November 3-7.

"Delighted to call on PM Anthony Albanese in Canberra today. Conveyed warm greetings of PM @narendramodi. Value his guidance for deepening India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," Mr Jaishankar wrote on X.

Earlier, Mr Jaishankar met Peter Dutton, the leader of the Liberal Party of Australia.

"Shared perspectives on global issues and appreciate his support for our bilateral ties," Mr Jaishankar said after meeting Dutton.

He also met New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Winston Peters in Canberra.

"Discussed education, technology, agriculture, and people-to-people ties. Also exchanged views on Indo-Pacific and global issues," Mr Jaishankar said on his meeting with Peters.

Mr Jaishankar also met UAE's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

"So nice to meet my friend DPM & FM @ABZayed of UAE in Canberra today," Mr Jaishankar posted on X.

Tension grips Bangladesh over Facebook post about Iskcon

DHAKA, Nov 6 (Agencies): In Bangladesh's port city of Chittagong, a clash between the Hindu community and the law enforcement forces took place in the midst of a tense situation over a Facebook post criticizing ISKCON. Due to this, the joint forces of police and army conducted an operation there on Tuesday night.

"A local Muslim youth reportedly uploaded a post on Facebook criticizing ISKCON. The angry Hindu community people protested and clashed with the law-enforcing agencies. They threw bricks and other objects at the police. After the clashes, a joint operation conducted by law enforcing agencies, comprising police and army," Saifuddin Tuhin, a local reporter from Chittagong told agency over the phone.

As per a report by the Bangla Daily, Prothom Alo, blank shots were also fired during the operation.

Recently some individuals and groups have demanded a ban on ISKCON in Bangladesh. ISKCON leaders in Dhaka recently asked "Amar Desh" editor Mahmudur Rahman to apologize for demanding the banning of ISKCON. A group called "Inqilab Manch" demanded the banning of ISKCON.

Hindus, who make up about 8 per cent of Bangladesh's 170 million population, have traditionally supported Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party, which has faced backlash following violent clashes between anti-quota protesters and security forces last month.

On August 5, a student-led movement ousted Bangladesh's Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, after weeks of protests and clashes that killed over 600 people. Hasina, 76, fled to India on August 5 and an interim government led by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus was formed.

Indian Americans script history, win 6 seats in US House of Representatives

VIRGINIA, Nov 6 (Agencies): Six Indian Americans have won the elections to the House of Representatives in the United States, increasing their number from five in the current Congress.

In Virginia, Indian-American lawyer Suhas Subramanyam created history by becoming the first from the community to be elected from the state and the entire East Coast. Subramanyam is currently a Virginia State Senator.

Subramanyam defeated Mike Clancy of the Republican Party.

"I am honoured and humbled that the people of Virginia's 10th District put their trust in me to take on the toughest fights and deliver results in Congress. This district is my home. I got married here, my wife Miranda and I are raising our daughters here, and the issues our community faces are personal to our family. It is an honour to continue serving this district in Washington," Subramanyam was quoted as saying by news agency PTI.

The tally of Indian Americans in the House of Representatives may increase with the possibility of Amish Shah winning against his

Republican incumbent in the First Congressional District of Arizona.

Subramanyam earlier served as a White House Advisor to President Barack Obama and is a known face among the Indian-American community in the US.

He joined the 'Samosa Caucus' in the Congress which currently comprises five Indian Americans - Ami Bera, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ro Khanna, Pramila Jayapal and Shri Thanedar.

All the five existing Indian American members have also been re-elected to the House of Representatives.

Shri Thanedar was re-elected for the second consecutive term from the 13th Congressional District of Michigan. He won it for the first time in 2023.

Raja Krishnamoorthi won the seventh Congressional District of Illinois for the fifth consecutive term.

While the battles for control of the White House and Congress remain close, I am honoured that the people of Illinois' 8th District have extended my contract to represent them in Congress," Krishnamoorthi said.

"My parents came to this country with little more than a dream for

their family's future and the faith that they could achieve it here in America," Krishnamoorthi concluded.

"Despite some hard times, we did."

"My mission in Congress is to fight for all the other families that are pursuing their dreams, no matter where they come from, how they worship, or the number of letters in their names... there are 29 in mine."

So did Ro Khanna who represents the seventeenth Congressional District of California and Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, who represents the seventh Congressional District of Washington State.

A physician by profession, Dr Ami Bera is the senior-most Indian American Congressman representing the sixth Congressional District of California since 2013. He was re-elected for the seventh consecutive term.

In Arizona, Shah from the Democratic Party was slightly ahead of his Republican Party's incumbent David Schweikert.

He has 132,712 votes as against his rival's 128,606 votes when 63 per cent of the votes were counted.

This Japanese company wants to make sex toys more mainstream

At first glance it's not even obvious that the sleek, colourful products on display are Japan's favourite sex toys for men, but the store has drawn a stream of couples and tourists since opening this year.

TOKYO, Nov 6 (Agencies): Hourglass-shaped sex toys casually glide along a conveyor belt through an airy new store in Tokyo, the latest attempt by Japanese manufacturer Tenga to sell adult products without the shame that is often attached.

At first glance it's not even obvious that the sleek, colourful products on display are Japan's favourite sex toys for men, but the store has drawn a stream of couples and tourists since opening this year.

"Its openness surprised me," said customer Masafumi Kawasaki, 45, "and made me a bit embarrassed that I'd had a 'naughty' image" of the company.

"I might have thought this was some kind of cosmetics shop," he added.

Although best known for single-use male masturbation aids, known as cups, the Japanese Tenga brand has grown into an intimacy empire, offering toys for men and women, as well as family planning and help for people with sexual disorders.

It is a key player in Japan's adult goods market that Yano Research Institute in 2016 estimated was



worth around 209 billion yen (\$1.3 billion).

Tenga items are sold in dozens of countries, and nearly half the firm's annual sales of 10 billion yen -- a figure that has doubled over the past six years -- are from overseas.

Founder Koichi Matsumoto, 57, told AFP that he has long strived to de-stigmatise sexual pleasure. Sex toys for men existed before Tenga, but their crude designs replicating genitalia kept them underground, far from the mainstream image that his firm projects.

Matsumoto recalled seeing such goods hidden in store corners, their packaging decorated with porn actresses and in some cases, cartoons of young girls.

"Those products seemed to say, 'please use us to feel lewd and obscene, because that's

what masturbation is'," he said.

"I found that message debasing and wrong -- because it's a fundamental, important human desire."

'Lonely, single men' Inspired to create something more "positive, friendly and safe", Matsumoto quit his job as a car salesman and embarked on a mission to bring the industry from the "back alleys into high streets".

Tenga products are designed to look different from explicit artificial vaginas and vulvas which Matsumoto says objectify women.

The company's marketing team describes its wares -- including the signature bright phallic cups, vibrators and other toys -- as "artistic". But prejudices remain around the firm, despite creative collaborations for products such as hipster T-shirts.

Tenga cups are still often misconstrued as catering to "lonely, single men seeking a replacement for women", said Mei Kamiya, a 26-year-old clerk at the new Tenga Land flagship store in Tokyo's trendy Harajuku district.

But masturbation is "normal for everyone", while other Tenga products, such as vibrators, can deepen intimacy between partners, she said.

Japan, like many developed nations, is struggling with a low birth rate, which is fueling a looming demographic crisis.

But Matsumoto rejects the suggestion that Tenga products promote sexlessness.

"If anything, I think we're doing the opposite of encouraging birth rates to fall" in Japan, he said.

'Less taboo' Tenga sells sperm monitoring kits for couples hoping to conceive, and tools for those suffering from erectile dysfunction.

Some doctors recommend its healthcare products as "one option" to treat sexual disorders, said Mikiya Nakatsuka, a professor of reproduc-

tive medicine at Okayama University.

But there is a tendency in Japan to shy away from sex-related topics, including menstruation and contraception, partly due to conservative school sex education, he told AFP.

"Are we going to see midday TV commercials about Tenga any time soon? I don't think so," Nakatsuka said.

Even so, Tenga's "stylishness and its medical usefulness can help make these types of conversations less taboo".

Going forward, Tenga wants to target the country's ageing population, whose needs it says are often overlooked.

Some elderly people feel they are "automatically assumed to be too old to even have sexual desires", the firm's research found.

Others live with and are financially dependent on adult children, giving them little privacy.

For women in older generations, "there was a time when it was considered shameful or unladylike for them to be open or assertive about sex," Matsumoto said.

"We tell them it is a good, healthy thing."

GHRT India hosts International Peace Conference in Hyderabad

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 6: GHRT India recently organized an international peace conference, bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds to promote peace, harmony, and social welfare. Fifty-five outstanding contributors from across India received awards in various fields, recognizing their exceptional work.

This prestigious event aimed to promote peace, harmony, and social welfare, aligning with GHRT



India's mission to protect human rights and empower marginalized communities.

The conference brought together people from various backgrounds, including social activists, edu-

cators, healthcare professionals, and artists, to share their experiences and ideas on creating a

more peaceful and equitable society.

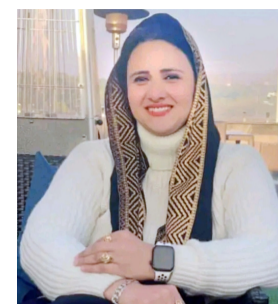
The event was graced by Ahmath Sadique Deputy Minister of External Affairs Srilanka Youth Parliament, President of International Diplomat Mufthi Muen Executive Member Ministry of Finance and infrastructure Youth Parliament Government of India and Dr. H R Rehman Chairman GHRT India were as guests and special guest.

Nighat Mir demands employment opportunities

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 6: Nighat Mir, a well-known social activist who has been dedicated to advocating for the rights of Unemployed Youths of Jammu and Kashmir for over a decade, is calling for increased employment opportunities for those in need. As a well known social activist, Mir has been tireless in her efforts to bring about positive change in society.

In a recent statement, Mir emphasized the critical need for job creation in order to uplift individu-



als and families struggling to make ends meet. She highlighted the devastating impact that unemployment and underemployment can have on region, leading to increased poverty, homelessness, and other social issues.

"It is unacceptable that so many of our fellow citizens are unable to find gainful employment and provide for themselves and their loved ones," said Mir. "We must do better to ensure that everyone has access to decent work and economic opportunities."

As she continues to fight for social change, Mir is urging policymakers, business leaders, and community members to prioritize job creation and economic development as essential components of building a more just and equitable society.

GDC Kathua conducts first year NCC enrolment for Girls' Battalion of Jammu

Top News Report

KATHUA, Nov 6: In a significant step towards empowering young women in the region, Government Degree College Kathua has successfully conducted the first-year enrolment for the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in the Girls' NCC Battalion of Jammu.

The enrolment, which took place on 6th of November 2024, witnessed enthusiastic participation from female students eager to join the prestigious corps and embark on a journey of leadership, discipline, and national service.

The whole activity was conducted under the guidance of principal of the college Prof. Seema Mir. Principal Prof. Seema Mir, speaking at the event, highlighted the importance of programs like the NCC in shaping the future of young women, emphasizing the development of skills such as teamwork, resilience, and national pride.

She encouraged the cadets to make the most of the training and prepare themselves for leadership roles in both the public and private

sectors.

The enrolment session marks the beginning of an exciting journey for the young women of GDC Kathua as they step into the world of NCC, where discipline, adventure, and patriotism will guide them toward a brighter future.

The selection was conducted under the supervision of Sub Tsering Panchok of 2 J&K Girls Bn NCC, Jammu. Sub Tsering Panchok expressed his appreciation for the enthusiastic participation of the students who are eager to join the National Cadet Corps and embrace its values of discipline, teamwork, and service to the nation.

The NCC program at GDC Kathua aims to provide students with invaluable opportunities for character-building, leadership training, physical fitness, and adventure.

The newly enrolled cadets will undergo comprehensive training in various aspects, including drill exercises, community service, and military-style discipline, while also participating in adventure camps and social outreach programs.

ACD tours far flung pyt Halla of Ramban block



Top News Report

RAMBAN, Nov 6: Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Ramban, Srinath Suman, alongside Block Development Officer (BDO) Ramban, Yasir Wani & Programme Officer MGNREGA, inaugurated a comprehensive training programme for MGNREGA Job Card holders under Project Unnat.

Programme was attended by the Director of SETI Harvinder Singh, officials from the Agriculture Department, and members of the local community from Panchayat Dhandrath-B, Block Ramban.

Speaking on the occasion, the ACD Ramban said that the Project Unnat is aimed at empowering MGNREGA Job Card holders with skill development training to enhance employability and encourage self-reliance. This training initiative has been taken up by the administration to uplift the rural workforce

through skills enhancement.

Following the inauguration, ACD Ramban, accompanied by his team, conducted an inspection of key developmental projects in the area. The inspection included ongoing work at Panchayat Ghar in Dhandrath-C, PMAY-G houses in Panchayats Dhandrath-A, B, and C, as well as various MGNREGA works undertaken in Block Ramban during the financial years

2023-24 and 2024-25.

This initiative and the subsequent inspection highlight the administration's focus on ensuring quality infrastructure and housing for rural communities, in alignment with the broader developmental goals of the district. The administration is committed to furthering these efforts with transparency and accountability, reinforcing its dedication to rural empowerment.

Heritage School students shine at 51st J&K UT Badminton Championship 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 6: Heritage School students showcased exceptional talent and dedication at the 51st J&K UT Badminton Championship 2024, held at M.A. Stadium from October 25th to November 3, 2024.

The competition highlighted Heritageans' remarkable skills and dedication, as they secured top honours across multiple categories.

Shauryaveer Jasrotia of Class 12-C emerged as a double champion in the U19 Boys Doubles and U19 Mixed Doubles, securing a well-deserved spot at the upcoming U19 Nationals. Shreya Gupta of Class 11-D finished as the runner-up in the U17 Girls Doubles, while Param Raina of Class 10-A achieved runner-up positions in both U17



Boys Singles and Doubles. Young Aarav Mall of Class 4-B impressed with runner-up finishes in the U11 Boys Singles and Doubles.

The school also acknowledges the spirited participation of Lakhi of Class 7-A, Saket Of Class 5-B, Varchasvi

of Class 4-F, Adhvik of Class 5-B and Gihaan Anand of Class 4, for being awarded consolation prizes, for their commendable efforts.

Heritage School congratulated all participants and wishes them continued success in their future endeavours.

DSA-JK delegation meets CM Omar Abdullah



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 6: In a significant development, a delegation from the Dental Surgeons Association Jammu Kashmir (DSA-JK), led by Dr. Imteyaz Mantoo, President Dental Surgeon association along with Dr Farhana, Dr Aaliya, Dr Arbina, and Dr Muzaffer, met Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat today.

Long-pending demands of dental surgeons Reforms in dental healthcare sector Enhancing healthcare infrastructure Strengthening dental education and training

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah assured the DSA-JK delegation of his support in addressing their concerns and working towards improving dental healthcare in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We appreciate the CM's willingness to listen to our concerns. We look forward to seeing positive changes in the dental healthcare sector," said Dr. Imteyaz Mantoo.

DSA-JK President Dr. Imteyaz Mantoo thanked Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for patiently hearing their grievances and demanding proper recruitment plans.

This meeting marks a crucial step towards transforming Jammu and Kashmir's dental healthcare landscape.

While interacting with the deputation, the CM assured them that the government is committed to redress all their pending issues in a phased manner. He said that all their genuine demands and grievances would be examined and resolved on priority basis.

Article 370 resolution fake, lacks legal validity: BJP LoP Sunil Sharma

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 6: Senior BJP leader and party's Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma Wednesday termed the National Conference resolution on Article 370 as "fake" stating that it lacks

legal validity.

"This is a fake resolution and lacks the legal validity," Sharma said in outside Assembly.

He said Article 370 is history as the Supreme Court and Parliament has sealed it. "No one is above parliament. Omar

Abdullah and his party is trying to befool the people of J&K on the subject that has been closed forever," he said.

Sharma said that Congress must come clean on whether it supports the resolution. "Rahul Gandhi and Malika-

jun Kharge must clarify whether they support NC's resolution. The contents of the resolution are clear about restoration of Article 370. We want Congress leadership to clarify its stand on the issue," he said. Meanwhile, BJP MLA R

S Pathania said BJP will not be part of the Assembly proceedings till the Speaker announces roll back of Article 370 resolution. "We will not be part of the Assembly proceedings till the Speaker rolls back the resolution passed today," he said.

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