



# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## JJM achieves 70% coverage of rural households with tap water connections

J&K ranks 2nd in Water Quality Monitoring, Surveillance at National Level

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 8

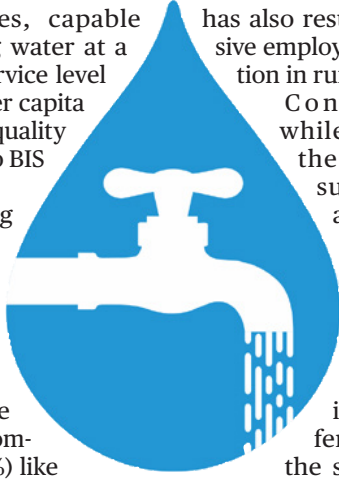
In J&K, the UT administration has achieved yet another feat with J&K Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) achieving a coverage of 70% rural households in terms of drinking water supply through tap connections. J&K has also attained a rank of No. 2 at the national level in term of water quality monitoring and surveillance.

So far under the mission, 13.16 lakh (70%) out of 18.68 lakh rural households have achieved coverage under Tap Water Connections thereby moving fast in achieving the saturation.

Jal Jeevan Mission is a flagship programme of the UT aimed to provide each and every rural household with Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) within

the premises, capable of supplying water at a minimum service level of 55 liters per capita per day and quality confirming to BIS 10500.

According to a press handout of the Department, out of 6600 work components, more than 5000 components (76%) like Tube wells, Bore Wells, Rapid Sand Filtration Plants, Over Head Tanks, Ground Service Reservoirs and pipe networks have started. Similarly more than 3000 schemes are under execution across all the districts of the UT with involvement of about 1700 contractors executing the works. This



has also resulted in massive employment generation in rural areas.

Concurrently, while executing the works on such a scale and speed, a robust management and monitoring mechanism has been put in place at different levels in the shape of District Level Project Management Units (DPMUs), UT level teams of Consultants/Experts and Third Party Monitoring Agencies (TPIAs) who are playing a vital role in efficient planning, quality assurance, coordination of efforts, use of appropriate/alternate construction technology and materials to

achieve the desired results in a time bound manner without affecting the basic design and serviceability requirements.

With the help of the UT level team of consultants and the technical advices provided by experts from National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM), various cost effective and technically viable solutions have been adopted. Slow Sand Filtration Plants, based on the level and occurrence of turbidity in the sources, have been designed with optimum utilization of space which otherwise was a constraint in their construction.

Similarly, to achieve economy and speed in some areas, construction of SMC-GFRP panel water storage tanks and laying of HDPE pipe distribution

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## In first polls after Article 370 Abrogation, NC-Cong alliance win 19 seats in LAHDC election

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCT 8

National Conference (NC) and Congress alliance secured absolute majority in the 5th general elections of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) on Sunday.

NC emerged the single largest party securing 11 seats while Congress got 8 seats. So far the result of 24 seats, out of the 30 member council, was declared and counting for the other seats was going on, officials said.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won two seats while three independent candidates also declared victorious in the elections. Aam Aadmi Party failed to open their account in LAHDC-K Council.

Among others the prominent NC candidates who registered their win are



Abdul Wahid who wins from Bhimbhat Constituency with a voting margin of 52 votes, Punchok Tashi registered his win from Padum Constituency with a voting margin of 54 votes and Manzoor Ul Husain wins from Yourbaltak Constituency with a voting margin of 90 votes.

Congress Candidate Abdul Hadi won Tai-Suru Constituency with a voting margin of 261 votes and Abdul Samad

won from Ranbirpora-Drass Constituency with a voting margin of 575 votes respectively.

BJP Candidate Padma Dorje wins a triangular contest at Stakchay Khangral Constituency with a voting margin of 177 votes, defeating Syed Hassan of Congress and Ghulam Hussain NC.

The first-ever civic elections in Kargil district

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## In a first, centre to give funds to registrar of cooperatives of all States, UTs for computerisation

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, OCT 8

In a historic decision and for the first time, registrar of cooperatives of States and Union Territories (UTs) and Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) are being given funds by the Center for computerisation, Ministry of Cooperation said on Sunday.

The total estimated expenditure for this scheme will be Rs 225.09 crore and it will enable people to quickly access services provided by the cooperative departments of the States and the offices of ARDBs as well as bring transparency and uniformity in the functioning of these offices, which will make them



more efficient and save the time.

In this regard, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah has taken an important decision to computerize and empower the registrars of all 28 States, eight UTs and 1,851 ARDBs operating in 13 states.

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## Jal Shakti Department ends adhocism and uncertainties, regularizes 1969 Engineers

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 7

In a major move aimed at efficient cadre management, the Jal Shakti Department issued regularization orders of 396 engineers in various ranks here yesterday, with another 411 in the pipeline pending essential clearances.

Many of those benefited by resultant pay fixation are retired officers who had been drawing pensions in lower ranks.

Since September 2022, 1969 engineers have been regularized, promoted and recommended, right from the rank of Junior Engineer to Superintendent Engineer. Officers had been working in incharge capacity, i.e. on adhoc basis,

for years together, without substantive promotions. In many a cases, the regularization has taken place after more than twenty two years of the adhoc placement.

The proactive and transparent processes steered by the Public Service Commission (PSC) have enabled the department to address these long pending issues.

The recommendations of the Department Promotion Committee in the PSC has resulted in orders of promotion of 70 Executive Engineers to Superintending Engineers, 129 Assistant Executive Engineers to Executive Engineers, 415 Assistant Engineers to the

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## Dr Jitendra proposes upskilling medicos with AI, Quantum, newer technologies



**AGENCIES**  
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 8

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has proposed upskilling medicos with AI (Artificial Intelligence), Quantum and other newer technologies to meet the changing requirements of patient care and to make the best use of the latest diagnostic and therapeutic modalities available.

Dr Jitendra Singh was delivering Convocation Address at the 63rd Annual Convocation of National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS), held this year at the Ramaiah Medical College here.

Emphasising continuous skill building, particularly in young professionals, Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also a known Diabetologist and Professor of Medicine, said, India has taken a lead in Preventive and Integrated Healthcare under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Professional medical bodies such as NAMS and the Government could come together to provide Preventive Healthcare to all citizens of the country, he said.

"Wherever we are not able to provide optimum patient care, we could at least focus on the prevention of diseases through new technology means and I think that is one area which NAMS could

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## Govt clears appointments of 12 executive directors for various state-owned Banks

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, OCT 8

The Government has approved the appointments of 12 general managers as executive directors (EDs) of various public sector banks (PSBs).

According to sources, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on Saturday approved the appointments of 12 EDs.

As per the government order, Sanjay Rudra, general manager, Bank of Maharashtra, has been appointed ED, Union Bank of India. Another GM from the same bank, Vijaykumar N Kamble will take over as ED of UCO Bank.

Besides, sources said, Bhavendra Kumar, currently Chief General Manager with Canara Bank, has been elevated to become ED of the same

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## Historic Achievement | PM hails Indian Athletes for winning highest-ever 107 Medals At Asian Games

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCT 8

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed as "historic achievement" Indian athletes winning the highest-ever total of

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## Rain, Snowfall likely on higher reaches of J&K on October 9

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCT 8

The Meteorological office in Srinagar on Sunday predicted light to moderate rain or snowfall over higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir from Monday evening.

The MeT office said light to moderate rain or snowfall over higher reaches is likely at many places of Jammu and Kashmir from October 9 evening to October 10 night with a chance of 70-80 percent.

It said there is no forecast of snowfall in the plains.

An independent weather forecaster said that snowfall is expected in some higher



reaches, including Zojila, Mughal Road, Sinthan Top, various other parts of the Pir Panjal Range, and the higher

elevations of Gurez, Baramulla, Anantnag, and Kupwara districts.

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## Pak national apprehended by BSF

**AGENCIES**  
FEROZEPUR, OCT 8

A Pakistani national was apprehended after he crossed the International Border and entered Indian territory in the area falling near village

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## Death toll in Hamas attack in Israel rises to 350

**AGENCIES**  
TEL AVIV [ISRAEL], OCT 8

The number of Israelis killed since Hamas began its attack on Saturday has jumped to 350, CNN reported citing

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## Muslim artisans from UP keep date with Jammu for Dussehra effigies

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, OCT 8

Muslim artisans from Uttar Pradesh are back in Jammu along with their Hindu counterparts to erect effigies of demon king Ravana and his brothers for the upcoming Dussehra.

Over 50 workers, all from a village in Meerut district, reached Jammu on September 23 on the invitation of Shri Sanatam Dharam Sabha Geeta Bhawan.

"We have been coming to Geeta Bhawan for the past 38 years to make the effigies for Dussehra, catering to different parts of Jammu and Kashmir besides Leh in Ladakh," head con-



tractor Mohd Rehan said. The main Dussehra function will be held at Parade ground in the heart of Jammu.

Effigies of Ravana, Meghnada, and Kumbhakarna will also be burnt

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## EDITORIAL

## Kargil verdict on expected lines

The verdict of Kargil Council elections has come on expected lines with the National Conference-Congress alliance winning the polls with a thumping majority. The National Conference has emerged as the single largest political party in the 30-member Council while the Congress too improved its previous tally of eight seats and it settled at 10 seats. The BJP, which was riding high on development poll plank, bagged just two seats—a shocker for the party leadership at the Centre besides a warning signal for the BJP ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections scheduled to be held next year. The reason for it is that the Congress and the National Conference have been popularizing their victory in Ladakh as a beginning of the BJP's downfall at national level because it was the BJP which fulfilled the long pending demand of Ladakhi people to have UT status for the region. Ladakh was earlier a part of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. A lot of hype was given to these polls with opposition parties—including National Conference and Congress having a strong base in Kargil district as they termed it as a referendum on Article 370. It was being perceived that these key polls would be a litmus test for J&K's bifurcation into two UTs—J&K and Ladakh. The important fact of the matter is now whether the pre-poll alliance of the Congress and the National Conference will survive for the next five years—the full term of the Hill Development Council. Even the leaders of two parties are not sure and they have reasons for it. In the last council, the two parties initially had entered an alliance which survived for a shorter time. This time too, two parties have opened the channels of communication with the 'potential' independent candidates contesting the polls with a sole aim to gain a majority at their own level. As many as 25 Independents also tried their luck for the 26 constituencies of the LAHDC Kargil and gave a tough fight to their opponents on certain seats. Candidates of the National Conference and Congress were locked into a "friendly" contest on as many as 13 seats of the LAHDC Kargil but the parties tried to rope in Independents much before the beginning of counting to muster the majority after declaration of the results. Instead of taking support from the alliance, the National Conference is seriously considering rope in two Independents to ensure a majority on its own. This was against the backdrop of the fact that at least 13 constituencies—50 percent of the total 26 constituencies have candidates of two parties contesting against each other. The last elections to Council were held on August 27, 2018 when there were as many as 256 polling stations set up for the elections and ballot papers and boxes were used for the voting. At that time, the NC had won 10 seats and Congress 8. PDP had garnered two seats and BJP one while there were five Independents. Initially NC and Congress shared power in the Council but later NC formed its own city Government with Independents. PDP Councilors had later switched over to BJP while four nominated Councilors were also its leaders which took the party's strength to seven. It would be interesting to see how two parties—NC and Congress tread cautiously to fulfill 'alliance dharma' in the next five years. The moot question will remain etching the mind of political experts whether they will remain intact or will part ways like previous experience of 2018.

## Maldives poll alters Indian Ocean geopolitics

MAKHAN SAIKIA

Male should not be apprehensive about making Delhi closer than Beijing. President-elect Muizzu must understand that China's engagement is a long trap. Many of African and Latin American nations are fast falling into this trap by accepting financial assistance from China. All of them should be aware that China's new partnership model is purely opaque and not time tested.

The recent election results in the Maldives might change India's bonhomie with the archipelago. The President-elect Mohamed Muizzu, the winning candidate for the PNC-PPM coalition, was earlier a Mayor of the capital city of Male. In last Saturday's run-off election, Muizzu defeated incumbent President Ibrahim Solih, commonly known as Ibu of the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), by 19,000 votes or an 8 per cent margin.

The Opposition parties in the Maldives branded Solih's India leaning or the "India-first" policy as a direct threat to the island nation's sovereign status. China's long arm of influence through money, muscle power and wolf-warrior diplomacy are a real threat for India. With Chinese President Xi Jinping at the helm of affairs since 2012, China is all out to encircle India in its neighbourhood through its infamous "String of Pearls" policy. For years, the Maldives has remained under the strong influence of India. But Xi's aggressive plan for the expansion of China's influence through the historic Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has finally reached the Maldives, a country of just around 400,000 people. It is spread over 1,200 islands in 90,000 square miles which crisscrosses key trade routes wherein both India and China vie for control and influence. Abdullah Yameen, the former President of the

Maldives first took initiatives to move closer to China.

The new President-elect Muizzu has come out tough on India. He has clearly revealed his soft corner for China. From the "India First" policy of the Solih regime, Muizzu may shift towards better friendly ties with China. He has already stated in public that "the people have decided and don't want Indian troops to stay in the Maldives. Therefore, foreign soldiers can't be here against our sentiments, against our will".

Thus, it is clear that naval and air force personnel stationed on the Addu and Lammu Islands since 2013 to maintain and operate two helicopters and Dornier aircraft that India had given to the Maldives for reconnaissance operations have to be called back now. Currently a total of 75 Indian military personnel are there in these islands as per the record of the Maldivian National Defence Force. Again, the fate of the construction of a coast guard harbour base at the Uthuru Thila Falhu atoll, inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in May 2023, is uncertain. It is pertinent to mention here that an MoU signed by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with the Maldivian Defence Minister in February 2021 was at the centre of the Opposition protest in that country. For the Opposition, this is a secret agreement signed with India by compromising the country's sovereignty. These issues are very sensitive and Muizzu must look into them before taking any action.

But why does the Maldives matter to India? Yes, it does seriously matter to India. First of all, the island nation is situated at a crucial location in the Arabian Sea region of the Indian Ocean and India shares a sea border with that country. The island country is very near to India. It is just 70 nautical miles from the



Minicoy Islands or locally known as Maliku in Lakshadweep and 300 nautical miles from the West coast of India.

Secondly, it is situated at the centre of the commercial sea lines of communication in the Indian Ocean. Third, so far India has a preeminent position in that country, almost virtually spreading its influence over the entire nation.

Fourth, it is truly critical for maintaining regional political stability and security. Fifth, the Maldives, irrespective of its size and global influence, holds the key to important shipping lanes that continuously provide energy supply to three big economies of the region: India, Japan and China. Sixth, it is also an important member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) where India is the most dominant among all. Finally, it lies in the Indian Ocean through which major trade lanes of the globe pass. And India being a world power and now being the fifth largest economy of the world, will definitely have an eye over all its neighbours so as to build constant communication and grow trade ties with them.

For long, the Maldives have become another battleground for two neighbouring regional giants: India and China. Clearly, it is one of South Asia's many nations that have been maintaining closer ties with both Beijing and Delhi. However, India has a

deeper historical, cultural and economic tie with the Maldives than China does. The MEA rightly states that "India and the Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links steeped in antiquity. The relations have been close, cordial and multi-dimensional. India was among the first to recognise Maldives after its independence in 1965 and to establish diplomatic relations with that country."

This shows how India shares an enduring relationship with the archipelago nation. Again, in 1988, the bilateral engagement flourished between the two countries, when India launched the "Operation Cactus" to abort a coup attempt by a group of Maldivians to depose the government of then President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom. The coup was led by a businessman called Abdullah Luthufi who took help of the armed mercenaries of the Sri Lankan Tamil secessionist organisation People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE).

The irony is that Gayoom approached several other countries like Sri Lanka, Singapore, Pakistan, the US and the UK for immediate help to thwart the coup. When all of them refused, then UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher advised Gayoom to ask India for help. India quickly restored the status quo and brought back stability in the neighbourhood. But today, politi-

cal scenario in the island nation has completely changed as China has started engaging the political leadership of the Maldives. This has become a cause of concern for India because China has simply found a secured place for both its investment and military expansion (probably in near future) right at the former's backyard.

The cordiality in bilateral relations continued between India and the Maldives during the country's first democratically elected government in 2008. But with the coming of Abdullah Yameen coming to power in 2013, India's relationship with the island country sharply spiralled downwards. He was famous for attacking democracy, raising the anti-India banner and advocating proximity to Beijing. His only intention was to arouse nationalist sentiment to lessen Delhi's influence over the country. However, when Solih came to power in 2018, once again India-Maldives relations cemented towards better partnership and development.

It is Delhi's turn now to engage the island nation. Meanwhile, the Indian High Commissioner to Male, Munnu Mahawar, has already met Muizzu and handed over a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulating him on his election victory. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has stated that Delhi will look forward to engaging the new establishment in Male

on all fronts. It is certain that the power balance between the two Asian giants Indian and China may change with the election of Muizzu. The fact is that India and China are already facing serious troubles in their bilateral relationship because of border disputes. And this came out in the open when Xi refused to attend the latest G-20 summit hosted by India last month.

Male should not be apprehensive about making Delhi closer than Beijing. Muizzu must understand that China's engagement is a long trap. Many of African and Latin American nations are fast falling into this trap by accepting financial assistance from China. All of them should be aware that China's new partnership model is purely opaque and not time tested. Unlike the American or the global liberal ties, Chinese one is more of an intervention and a sharp attack on the former. China has been facing serious problems with its own regions like Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong, and most prominently, Taiwan (an island that does not accept China's suzerainty, though it is mentioned as Chinese Taipei in international lexicon for various purposes). Especially, the smaller, poorer and island nations like the Maldives should be extremely cautious while engaging with authoritarian regimes like China.

It is better for President-elect Muizzu to take a quick decision on how to reorient India-Maldives bilateral relations before it is too late. His tenure should not be started with a negative note. Both Male and Delhi need each other. They should forge ahead with mutual understanding and trust. Both the countries need to collaborate to fight larger challenges in regard to transnational crimes, humanitarian disasters and natural calamities in the coming days.

(The writer is currently president of the Global Research Foundation)

## De-risking is better than decoupling

UMANG KOHLI

This is not a world of decoupling, rather it is of de-risking and realignment. The Ukraine war has thrown many questions on the existing world order, including on the effectiveness of the United Nations. However, one thing that has emerged is that globalisation in the last two decades has become so strong that complete economic decoupling of a country or region is neither feasible nor justifiable. De-risking and realignment is the only way forward for Nations to make economic progress. Most powerful nations have openly stated that they want to build economic resilience for themselves, based on a strategy of "diversifying and deepening partnerships and de-risking, not decoupling".

Despite the best of efforts by NATO it has not been able to decouple Russia. Russia continues to trade within Asia and also with Europe and Africa. For example, the Russian commercial nuclear technology industry has been used in Europe, to meet the energy requirements of the West. It has been well realised that the priorities of nations for trade may change with each other. However, the isolation of one country by a group of countries leads to disruption in trade and a lack of development of nations at

large. Isolation of Nations may therefore not be a good idea in the future particularly if the sustainable development goals of the UN are to be met. "We are totally opposed to the idea of decoupling. Decoupling is an illusion," French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said. He added, "There is no possibility of having any kind of decoupling between the American, European and Chinese economies."

It has also been well recognised by now that decoupling of China may not be possible however 'de-risking' of economies vulnerable to debt trap diplomacy of China is a must for an overall just World. The US treasury secretary during his Beijing visit acknowledged that decoupling from China was virtually impossible. Tit-for-tat exchanges over tariffs have reinforced the popular view that so-called decoupling has largely involved discouraging imports, which is not decoupling, it is more or less protection of one's own industry which has been happening for decades and is nothing new. From the Chinese perspective, however, derisking is a strategic shift whereby China switches its focus from economic growth to economic control. The term dual circulation is used for this control which refers to complete control of external and internal trade, this



is more of an expansionist trade policy that goes hand in hand with its military policy. This kind of expansionist 'de-risking' by China is threatening the world trade order and therefore countries have started talking about 'decoupling' from China.

India's approach to cooperation and mutually beneficial trade between countries is likely to gain traction globally, particularly in the countries of the Global South. It's about time, the Global South is given its due as far as the dividends of trade are concerned. De-risking their economies from China could be an important step in that direction. De-risking economies also include catering to climate change and the changes associated with

the transfer of technology to enable change towards clean energy by the Global South is also a process of de-risking not only for these nations but also for humanity.

So when the West has already realised that decoupling from China is not possible and de-risking is essentially important, what are the steps for de-risking economies of the Global South? The policy of de-risking and plans for developing the Global South are two major strategies that go hand-in-hand. Economic globalisation is essential for the Global South, and essentially transfer to technology is important for them. De-risking the Global South would entail building its infrastructure and transfer of technology

so that it can self-sustain in times of natural calamity and pandemic-like situations. Making their economies dependent on foreign investments is not the way forward. India has been taking the initiative to de-risk the economies of the Global South by including them in a policy framework that is more equitable.

The other thing that is emerging is that countries must de-risk themselves from countries like China to check its expansionist policy, which goes beyond economic realms and also fiddles with the political and social fabric of countries. De-risking must curb China's access to top-notch innovation around the world. Unlike decoupling, de-risking should not seek to curb access to

less sophisticated technology. De-risking should also aim to slow the progress of the Chinese military. Preventing the Chinese army from accessing advanced technology with military applications should be done at all costs. This highlights how de-risking spans both economics and defence.

Over-reliance on exclusive Chinese products also needs to be reduced in the world for eg wrt the transition to clean energy. The world must ensure the safety of supplies for critical raw materials required for shifting to green energy (such as lithium), technologies (including electric-vehicle batteries), and equipment (such as solar panels) that will be crucial to net-zero emissions are not an exclusive property of one country alone.

Yes, this is not an era for war and may be not for decoupling either but it is definitely an era of de-risking. An era when humanity needs to strive towards common goals, de-risking itself from those who have monopolistic tendencies. Larger good must always prevail in our minds cutting across borders and selfish interests. If the sustainable development goals of the UN are to be met any time soon this is a prerequisite.

(The writer is expert on geopolitics and international Affairs. The views expressed are personal)









## 22nd Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) meeting held at SKUAST-Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 8

Under the able guidance and leadership of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, the 22nd Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) meeting was held at Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, R. S. Pura campus of SKUAST-Jammu. Prof. M.S Bhadwal, Chairman, IAEC cum Dean F. V. Sc & A.H, R S Pura, welcomed all the members and informed them about steps taken by the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, R S Pura for the welfare of laboratory as well as large animals kept in the animal houses of the Faculty. He informed the esteemed committee members that there are fourteen (14)



agenda items out of which eight are from for laboratory animals and six proposals for clinical cases to be deliberated in the meeting. Thereafter, the member secretary presented the agenda items one by one for detailed presentation and threadbare discussions with the all the committee members. Prof. Azmat Alam Khan, CCSEA nominee and other distinguished members were actively involved in the 3R concept i.e. reduce, reuse and refine the research protocol for use of experi-

mental animals. After intensive discussion, two proposals were recommended for the approval from CCSEA (Committee for Control and Supervision of Experiment on Animals), Government of India, New Delhi. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. Pawan Kumar Verma, Member Secretary, to the chair and other members of Institutional Animal Ethics committee of Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, R. S. Pura

## Govt. GLDM Degree College Hiranagar celebrates National Wildlife Week

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
HIRANAGAR, OCT 8

In an effort to foster wildlife conservation and upraise awareness about the seriousness of preserving India's wildlife and natural heritage, Government GLDM Degree College Hiranagar recently celebrated National Wildlife Week sponsored by JK Science Technology and Innovation Council, J&K, with a bunch of engaging activities.

The third event organized in continuation with the celebration of National Wildlife week was documentary screening on wild life of various animals. The programme started with the welcome address of Prof. Nidhi, she further explained the importance of wild flora and fauna in maintaining the ecological balance of nature. Dr Anju Rani presented a formal vote of thanks.

The fourth event was marked by organizing an expert talk on the wildlife conservation. Dr Arunkumar formally welcomed the experts of the day. The first expert for the day was Mr. Vijay Kumar, Wildlife Warden, Kathua, who focused on the fact that the price of human greed is being paid by poor, innocent animals. He further engrossed the fact that some animal species are getting depleted at an alarming rate. Moreover, he urged the young generation to be aware of the present state of affairs and if it is allowed to continue, the next generation will not get to see many majestic animals even in the zoo. The second expert was talk was given by Mr. Vinay Kumar, Block forest Officer, Jasrota wildlife who very beautifully presented the various types of



the wild fauna being found in the region of Jammu he also explained the reason of extinction of various species of birds from the region. The Principal of the college DR Pragya Khanna applauded the efforts of the resource persons for making the event communicative and enlightening.

The week-long celebration concluded with a Field visit to Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary, where in 50 students participated. Dr Pragya Khanna, principal of the college introduced the participants with the Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary which is located on the right side of the banks of the River Ujh. She asked students to notice and record everything around and gather maximum benefit from the visit.

Prof. Neha Bhagat, organizing secretary of the trip along with the other members Dr. Jyoti Rani, Mr. Vikramjammwal (PTI) and Dr. Bharat Bhushan-

focused on the importance of environmental trips for the students which is something new and is a welcome break from their daily routine. And further focused that such trip experiences create an inclusive and succinct connection. In turn, that builds cognitive, social, and emotional foundations for their personal and professional progress. The field trip was accompanied by Mr. Vinay Kumar, Block forest Officer, Jasrota wildlife. He put forward the fact that the sanctuary is full of lush green plains where a large number of birds and animals live. He further introduced that Axis deer are the most remarkable among them He further told that there are large variety of mammals and birds are living in the sanctuary and some of them are cheetal, Barking deer, wild boar, rhesus monkey, red jungle fowl, green pigeon, and blue rock pigeon.

## Nissan Magnite KURO special edition introduced at 8.27 lakh

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
GURUGRAM, OCT 8

Nissan Motor India (NMIPL) today introduced for its Big, Bold, Beautiful Nissan Magnite, the KURO Special Edition in Black at a starting price of INR 8.27 LAKHS (ex-showroom, Delhi). The bookings of the Nissan Magnite KURO Special Edition are open with a booking amount of INR 11,000. It is available in all upper grades, including Magnite XV MT, Magnite Turbo XV MT, and Magnite Turbo XV CVT.



ets by visiting the nearest Nissan dealership and test driving the Nissan Magnite. Winners will be decided by a lucky draw.

The Nissan Magnite KURO Special Edition offers a distinctive style and value proposition to the customers who are looking for a compact SUV that stands out from the crowd. Derived from the Japanese word for 'BLACK,' the name KURO captures the essence of this Special Edition, personifying a unique product theme blended with imposing

style and Japanese elegance. The KURO Themed Special Edition SUV is also reflective of premium quality and established reliability.

Rakesh Srivastava, Managing Director of Nissan Motor India said, "The Nissan Magnite KURO Special Edition is a combination of Style, Value and Safety with a strong value proposition. The special edition showcases our commitment to deliver to the changing aspirational needs and preferences of the discerning customers."

## JK People's Party Chief demands tunnels for Sadhna & Razdan Pass

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 8

Reacting sharply to LG Manoj Sinha's announcement over connecting of Kupwara district to rail network, JK People's Party Chief Sheeban Ashai demanded current regime to first fulfil its old promises. Ashai lashed out at BJP for its deceitful-perfidious brand of politics. He said, "What happened to tunnels of Sadhna Top and Razdan Pass? Let the Government of day first come clean on promises they have been making to people of North Kashmir especially Gurez and Karnah for construction of tunnels in respective areas, over last nine years. For months together Gurez and Karnah people face immense problems due to weather vagaries, patients have to be carried on shoulders. Ashai rubbished tall claims of current and previous dispensations right from 1996 for their abysmal failures to address just demands of people of North Kashmir. Before promising rail link to Kupwara, Government of the day should first fulfil their old promises. Ashai lambasted Modi and ilk's indecorous politics, called them a bunch of malleasant liars. Every year during winters, for



around six months residents of Karnah and Gurez are cut off with rest of erstwhile state. Residents of Karnah have been protesting for construction of tunnel for about three decades at Sadhna pass on Kupwara- Tangdhar highway. This particular stretch has become a death trap for people. More than 200 persons have died in the nine years due to massive avalanches at Sadhna top. Construction of the Sadhna Pass tunnel will provide Karnah, a far-flung area near the Line of Control (LOC) in Kupwara district, all-weather connectivity with the rest of the state. Every winter season it snows heavily at Sadhna and Kupwara-Karnah stretch becomes highly vulnerable to avalanches and landslides. It gets disconnected from the rest of Kashmir for around six months creating shortages of essential and medical supplies. Scores of times people residing in Karnah had to carry patients on our shoulders and trek to reach hospitals in nearby Kupwara or Srinagar. In

2018 government invited tenders from consultancies for providing feasibility, technicality for the tunnel and approach roads. Ashai questioned BJP regime led by Modi and Shah, what became of those tenders? Similarly for residents of Gurez, Razdan pass which is at the height of about 11672 feet above sea level is the main reason for it's remaining cut off every winter. In winters it snows around 20 feet & tunnel is the only alternative for uninterrupted connectivity. One can imagine plight of residents as Gurez-Bandipora road remains cut off from the rest of the world for more than 6 months due to heavy snowfall. Government had also proposed an alternate road from Gurez to Athwato in Bandipora. The alternate road would have reduced distance by more than 45 kilometers & provided much-needed relief to the people of Gurez. Ashai asked BJP regime of what happened to all those proposed plans? Before promising rail link to Kupwara present day regime must be embarrassed of its track record of past nine years". JK People's Party leadership top brass demanded all weather connectivity for both Gurez and Karnah in North Kashmir

## Ashwin monthly Shivratri fast on October 12: Mahant Rohit Shastri Jyotishacharya

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JAMMU, OCT 8

From the point of view of astrology, the lord of Chaturdashi date is Lord Bholenath i.e. Shiva himself. According to the scriptures, the marriage of Bholenath and Mother Parvati took place on the Chaturdashi Mahashivaratri day of Krishna Paksha of Phalgun month. It is also believed that Lord Shiva is on this day. Had taken physical form, since then monthly Shivratri is celebrated on this date of every month. Regarding the Ashwin monthly Shivratri festival, Mahant Rohit Shastri, President (Jyotishacharya) of Shri kailash jyotish avim Vedic Sanathan Trust told that this year 2023. Ashwin monthly Shivratri will be celebrated on Thursday, 12 October. Chaturdashi Tithi of Krishna Paksha of Ashwin month will start at 07:54 pm on Thursday, October 12 and will end at 09:51 pm on Friday, October 13. The auspicious time of Ratri Masik Shivratri is falling on Thursday 12th October, hence Ashwin Masik Shivratri will be celebrated on Thursday 12th October only. Monthly Shivratri fast Paran on Friday morning, 13 October. Pradosh Vrat will also be observed on Thursday 12th October. By worshipping and fasting Shiva on the day of Monthly Shivratri, unmarried women get a suitable groom. Boys who are delaying their marriage should also fast and worship on this day, their

wishes are also fulfilled soon, by observing fast on Monthly Shivratri. The life of couples becomes happy and blissful and all kinds of troubles in life go away. By observing fast on Shivratri one attains salvation and fulfills all the wishes of the devotees. Shiva worship is the destroyer of all sins. On the day of Shivratri month, worshipping Shiva and keeping vigil at night while reciting Shivpuran, Rudrabhishek, Shiv Katha, Shiv Stotras and "Om Namah Shivay" gives results similar to Ashwamedha Yagya. Method of worship :- On this day, Shiva devotees start gathering in Shiva temples from early morning. If due to some reason, you are unable to go to the temples, then worship Shiva by making a mortal Shivalinga at home. After observing the fast, Ganga water, milk, curd, ghee, honey, flowers, pure clothes, Bilva leaves, incense, lamp, Naivedh, sandalwood paste, seasonal fruits, Aak Dhatura flowers, rice etc. are offered to Shivalinga. Those observing monthly Shivratri fast should meditate on Lord Shiva Shankar throughout the fasting day. After taking bath in the morning, a tilak of ashes is applied and a Rudraksha rosary is worn. Worship of Shiva strengthens the will-power and instills indomitable courage and determination in the conscience. Special care should be taken not to eat the Prasad offered to Bholenath, if there is a



Shaligram near the idol of Shiva, then there is no harm in eating the Prasad. \*Shiva worship according to zodiac sign\* :- By doing Mahashivaratri, monthly Shivratri, daily or every Monday, all Shiva devotees will get best benefits and satisfaction. \*Aries\* For Shiva devotees of Aries sign, mix jaggery, sugarcane juice or honey in the water and perform Abhishek of Bhole. After the Abhishek, apply Tilak on Shivalinga with red sandalwood and write 'Om Namah Shivay' on the Belpatra with red sandalwood as much as possible and offer the Belpatra to Shiva. Also offer red flowers and chant Om Namah Shivay. Donate Shivpuran to 11 Brahmins. \*Taurus\* Taurus - Shiva devotees of this zodiac should anoint Lord Shiva with cow's milk and curd, apart from this, Lord Shiva should be offered rice, white sandalwood, white ash, white clothes. And jasmine flowers should also be offered and Mahamrityunjay mantra should be chanted. Vedapathi should donate Rudraksh rosary to 11 Brahmins. \*Gemini\*

## Aryans BALLB Students shine in Punjabi University Patiala Results

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Law students of Aryans College of Law, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh, brought laurels to the college in the examinations conducted by Punjabi University, Patiala. In BALLB, 3rd semester examination, Himanshu bagged 1st position with 77.2%, Naresh bagged 2nd position with 73% respectively and Gagandeep bagged 3rd position with 71% marks.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group congratulated the students and faculty for the hard work. He said that Aryans students are doing well not only in academics but in sports, innova-

tions, cultural also. Such excellent results by the students add more name and fame to the College, added Kataria.

It is to be mentioned that Aryans was the only Law College in the region to be associated with Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) in the years 2019, 2020 and 2021. For the first time, Pearson VUE on behalf of Law School Admission Council (LSAC) has made Aryans College of Law the Exam Centre for Law School Admission Test (LSAT). The score of the test is being used by famous law schools of America & Canada i.e. Harvard, Yale, Stanford University, British Columbia, Chicago etc.

## Israel-Hamas Conflict Stop these Attacks and Counter Attacks: CPI(M)

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The Polit Bureau of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) strongly condemns these attacks and counter attacks between Hamas and the Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip of Palestine. Already, many human lives have been lost and the situation is poised to escalate causing more deaths, miseries. This confrontation must end.

The most right-wing Netanyahu government in Israel has been indiscriminately occupying Palestine lands and establishing Jewish settlements in the West Bank. So far this year, prior to this conflict, 248 Palestinian lives have been lost including 40

children. The United Nations must ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for a Home Land, withdrawal of all Israeli illegal settlements and occupations of Palestine lands and ensure the implementation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution for a two-nation solution. Palestine, in accordance with the UN resolution, with East Jerusalem as its capital must be implemented. The Polit Bureau of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) calls upon the UN and the international community including the government of India to ensure the immediate cessation of this conflict and act for the implemen-

Gemini - Shiva devotees of this zodiac sign should perform Rudrabhishek to Lord Shiva with sugarcane juice. Apart from Belpatra Shami Patra, they should also offer whole green moong, hemp, durva and kush to Lord Shiva. Shiva devotees of this zodiac sign should recite Shiva Chalisa. And offer 11 Shiva Chalisa in the Shiva temple. \*Cancer zodiac sign\* Shiva devotees of Cancer zodiac sign should anoint Lord Shiva with Panchamrit, offer saffron and red flowers to Lord Shiva, offer red halwa and donate it. Remember the 1000 names of Lord Shiva. \*Sagittarius\* Shiva devotees of Sagittarius zodiac sign should anoint Lord Shiva by mixing saffron, turmeric and honey in milk. Apply a tilak of saffron and yellow sandalwood and offer a garland of yellow marigold flowers. Donate yellow colored clothes in Shiva temple. Recite Shiva Panchakshar Stotra. \*Capricorn\* Shiva devotees of Capricorn sign should mix milk or wheat in water and offer it to Shiva, offer sesame oil and blue flowers to Bhole Nathji, donate blue clothes in Shiva temple, remember 108 names of Lord Shiva. \*Aquarius\* Shiva devotees of Aquarius zodiac sign should perform Rudrabhishek with coconut water or sesame oil, offer flowers of Shami tree to Lord Shiva and recite Shivashtak. \*Pisces\* Shiva devotees of Pisces should perform Jalabhishek with water mixed with saffron. Lord Shiva should be worshiped with Panchamrit, curd, milk and yellow flowers. Chant Om Namah Shivay. Reciting Shiv Chalisa will also be auspicious.



