

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical center.

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:

- Severe and continuous abdominal pain
- Disorientation
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Severe ten pain or more, head or neck, joint or bone
- Redness

If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Maintaining peace in Kashmir biggest challenge for security forces: GoC 15 Corps Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 3

General officer Commanding (GoC) of army's Srinagar based 15 Corps Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai Thursday said that security situation in Kashmir has shown a significant improvement over the past few years and the biggest challenge for the security agencies is to keep the situation intact and make peace everlasting.

He also said that militancy in Kashmir was in the last stage as only 80



militants were active at present while the number of foreign militants was between 25 to 40.

Addressing a press conference, the out-going GoC

15 Corps Lt Gen Ghai said that the situation is considerably good in the region. "Terrorism is being fueled from across the border and that's very much clear," he

said, as per news agency.

Lt Gen Ghai is heading for a new posting and he will be succeeded by Lt General Prashant Shrivastava on October 15.

Replying to a query as to what was the biggest challenge in Kashmir, the army officer said that Kashmir has seen a good year so far like last year. "We need a few more good years to make peace a permanent feature here. I believe maintaining this peaceful atmosphere is the biggest challenge for the security forces," the GoC 15

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70% dip in violence in J&K, Northeast and Naxalism-affected areas in 10 years: Amit Shah

JI NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, OCT 3

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday claimed that incidents of violence have decreased by as much as 70 per cent in the three "hotspots" of Kashmir, the Northeast, and regions affected by Naxalism in the last ten years.

The number of deaths due to such incidents in these areas too has fallen by 72 per cent, he said, speaking after inaugurating the new office building of the Ahmedabad police



commissioner and Joint Interrogation Centre (JIC) in Shahibaug are here.

Shah, on a two-day Gujarat visit, also claimed that once the infrastruc-

ture needed for the implementation of the three new criminal laws is in place, people will get justice in three years from the point of registration of

First Information Report to a hearing in the apex court. Strong determination, permanent and effective solutions as well as pro-development approach of the Narendra Modi government has brought about a transformation in Kashmir and other places where violence was rife, the senior BJP leader said.

"In ten years, people witnessed a huge change in the internal security landscape of the country. A decade ago, bomb blasts used to happen

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Jammu & Kashmir records 63.88% voter turnout in 3-phased assembly elections

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 3

The women voters have once again outnumbered the men electorates in the phase-III of Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections in which a total of 69.69 per cent women voters cast their ballots in the phase-III of elections while the 69.37 per cent male voters turned up at the polling booth earlier this week.

The Election Commission of India has issued revised voter turnout for the phase-III of Jammu

and Kashmir assembly elections, revealing that a total of 69.69 per cent voter turnout was recorded on Tuesday.

As per the details, a total of 63.88 per cent voter turnout was recorded in the three-phased assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir including 64.68 per cent male voters and 63.04 per cent women and 38.24 per cent Third gender voters.

Moreover, in the third phase only, a total of 69.37 male voters turned up at the polling booths while 70.02 women voters and 43.86 per cent electors cast their ballots.

In the third phase, the

highest voter turnout was recorded in Marh (SC) assembly segment where a total of 81.47 percentage was recorded followed by Chhamb with 80.34 per cent.

Out of the 40 assembly constituencies, the lowest turnout was recorded in Sopore constituency at 45.32 per cent followed by 53.90 per cent in Baramulla segment.

Pertinently, the three-phased assembly elections that started on September 18, 2024, culminated in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday. In the three phases of elections, a total of 90 assembly

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PM to address Kautilya economic conclave

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday will address the third Kautilya Economic Conclave, which will discuss various issues including job creation, green economy, artificial intelligence and public policy design.

This year's conclave will focus on several themes, including reforming the international financial architecture, financing the green transition, geo-economic fragmentation and the implications for growth.

It would also deliberate on 'India and the middle-income trap', jobs and skilling, artificial intelli-



gence and public policy design, and the principles for policy action to preserve resilience of the economy.

The Conclave built on the theme 'The Indian Era', would bring together close to 150 national and international academicians and policy makers

to discuss most important issues confronting the Indian economy and economies of the Global South, a finance ministry statement said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will deliver the inaugural address, while External

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Real kingmakers waiting in wings: 5 nominated MLAs to hold key to Govt formation in JK

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 3

For the first time in Jammu and Kashmir's political history, five nominated Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) will have a significant role in forming the new government following a decade-long hiatus.

These MLAs, representing Kashmiri displaced persons and those from Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK), will hold full legislative powers and privileges, just like elected representatives.

As per the details available with the news agency,

among the five, two will be Kashmiri displaced members—one woman and one man—while one will represent the POJK displaced community.

This will be a milestone in terms of representation for these communities, as their inclusion in the legislative assembly has been a longstanding demand.

With this new arrangement, the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly will expand to 95 members, including the five nominated ones, increasing the majority threshold to 48 seats to form a government.

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Govt orders immediate repatriation of Legislative Assembly employees

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 3

The Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Government has issued an official directive ordering the immediate repatriation of all employees belonging to the J&K Legislative Assembly, who had been deployed across various departments by the General Administration Department (GAD).

The GAD as per the order dated on 03.10.2024 mandates that all such employees must report directly to the office of the Secretary, J&K Legislative Assembly, in Jammu or Srinagar.

News agency reported that the directive further stipulates that any cases of non-compliance should

be reported by the Secretary of the J&K Legislative Assembly to the GAD within one week of the order's issuance. This move is seen as part of the efforts to streamline the functioning of the Legislative Assembly as the Union Territory prepares for future political developments and governance restructuring.

The order also emphasizes that all employees who were temporarily stationed in different departments are now considered relieved of their duties in those offices, effective immediately.

The directive comes in reference to the order number CEO-ELEC/1/2024-1/153-54 dated 19.09.2024 from the office of Chief Electoral Officer.

GOC 9 Corps reviews operational preparedness in Bani, Billiwar sectors

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 3

Amid the frequent terror incidents in hills of Kathua-Udhampur districts, General Officer Commanding (GoC) of Yol based Rising Star Corps, commonly known as 9 Corp, conducted a comprehensive assessment of the operational preparedness of units deployed in the strategic Bani and Billiwar sectors of Kathua district.

As per spokesperson, the review was part of the ongoing efforts to ensure high levels of readiness and vigilance in the hinterland of Jammu, which

became active after around two decades, with an increase in terror incidents in Kathua, Udhampur and Doda borders.

Officials told the news agency, during the assessment GOC interacted with the troops and reviewed their operational capabilities, including logistical support, surveillance measures, and defensive positions.

He commended the dedication and professionalism exhibited by all ranks in executing their operations, acknowledging their role in maintaining peace and stability in the region despite challenging terrain and weather

conditions. Addressing the troops, the GOC emphasized the importance of continued alertness and adaptability to evolving security threats.

The Rising Star Corps is responsible for security of strategic Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts and recently played a very critical role in neutralizing a terrorist on September 29. In the same operation a police head Constable was also killed.

The GOC's visit underlined the Army's commitment to ensuring operational excellence and its preparedness to meet any contingencies. KNO

Navratri festival begins at Mata Vaishnodevi cave shrine in Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 3

Amid multi-tier security arrangements, the nine-day-long festival of Navratri began with religious fervor, as over 45,000 pilgrims undertake the pilgrimage daily to pay obeisance at the cave shrine of Mata Vaishnodevi in the Trikuta hills of Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), which manages the yatra, has started new registration counters at the Katra railway station to ease the process for the pilgrims in light of



the expected influx during the Navratri period.

The Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra has been adorned with indigenous and foreign flowers, and large pandals have been set up in the Bhawan area

for the auspicious occasion.

"I congratulate all the devotees on the occasion of Shardiya Navratri. We welcome them here and hope that thousands

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Exchange of fire between forces and terrorists in Chatroo forests of Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, OCT 3

After hectic efforts to trace the hiding militants in upper reaches of Chatroo in district Kishtwar, security forces today was able to establish a contact with militants in the forests and exchange of few rounds of fire took place.

An official told the news agency that in the morning the hiding militants fired upon the security forces and exchange of fire took place.

Giving details, police spokesman said, "Based on the specific intelligence information about presence of terrorists, a joint search operation was



launched by the security forces at Chatroo forests, under the jurisdiction of police station Chatroo, district Kishtwar."

"A contact was established and few rounds have been fired from both the sides. Further details

are awaited," the spokesman said.

For the few weeks, security forces have launched a massive combing operation in forests of Chatroo in Kishtwar district after presence of militants

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Dr Jitendra Singh advocates 'Rule to Roll' shift for result oriented governance

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, MoS (I/C) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh has strongly advocated 'Rule to Role' shift for result oriented governance.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the 'Mission Karmayogi' Workshop at New Delhi on Thursday.

Addressing the 'Mission Karmayogi' workshop here today, Dr Jitendra



Singh highlighted a significant transformation in India's governance approach, moving from a traditional rule-based system to a dynamic, role-based framework. He explained that this shift ensures civil servants are better equipped to align their skills with the specif-

ic responsibilities of their roles, making the government more adaptable and efficient. "India 2047 requires us to transcend rigid rules and adopt a flexible, role-based approach that enhances our global competitiveness," Dr Singh stated.

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Panchayat, Urban body elections likely in J&K before year-end

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 3

The Panchayat and urban body elections are likely to be held before the year's end in Jammu and Kashmir. After the successful conclusion of Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in J&K, officials say the local elections will be held by December.

"Preparations are now underway for the Panchayat and urban body elections in J&K. For this purpose security forces deployed to ensure the peaceful conduct of the Assembly elections will remain in J&K until the municipal and panchayat elections are completed,"

said the officials. Officials said that the decision to retain the security forces has been taken keeping in view the high cost associated with to and fro movement and for the redeployment of such forces in J&K.

The terms of office of the municipal corporations in both Jammu and Srinagar expired last November. As per legal requirements, elections must be held either before or shortly after the end of the corporation's term.

The delay has made these elections long overdue prompting the government to prioritise

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Assembly Election-2024 Training for counting staff held at Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 3

In preparation for the upcoming counting of votes casted in General Election to Legislative Assembly -2024, the training was conducted today at district Kishtwar for Counting Supervisors, Micro Observers, Counting Assistants, and allied staff tasked with assisting the Returning Officer of all the three Assembly Constituencies.

The training session took place in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex Kishtwar in the presence of District Election Officer (DEO) Kishtwar Rajesh Kumar Shavan.

The main focus of the training was to equip personnel with the necessary knowledge and skills required for the accurate and efficient counting of



votes. In his address to the trainees, DEO emphasized the crucial roles and responsibilities they would undertake during the counting process. The actual counting of EVMs is scheduled to take place at the Kendriya Vidyalaya Kishtwar on October 8, 2024, utilizing three dedicated Counting Halls, he informed.

He informed that a total of 42 counting tables will be set up, with each hall accommodating 14 tables for each Assembly

Constituency besides one additional room is dedicated for counting of Postal ballots, each manned by a team consisting of a Counting Supervisor, Micro Observer, Counting Assistant, and Counting Staff.

The ROs, AC 49-Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, 48-Inderwal Idrees Lone, 50-Paddar Nagsemi Dr. Amit Kumar, Election NT Angrez Singh, Nodal Officer Training Riyaz Ahmed Butt besides other concerned were present.

Assembly Elections-2024 First Randomization of Counting Staff held at Bandipora

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 3

In view of counting of votes scheduled on 08 October for Assembly Elections 2024, the first randomization of counting staff for the three Assembly constituencies of Bandipora District was successfully conducted today at the Mini Secretariat.

This crucial step was overseen by the District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, ensuring a transparent and fair election process.

Returning Officers for 14 - Sonawari, 15 - Bandipora and 16 - Gurez participated in randomization through virtual mode.

To uphold the integrity of the process, the randomization was conducted using specialized software in accordance with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India. The entire procedure was video recorded, further ensuring transparency.

Following the randomization, a training program was held for the selected counting staff, during which their roles

and responsibilities were thoroughly discussed ensuring that counting staff is well-prepared for the counting day.

The training programme covered various aspects, including the counting process, the handling of control units, and the importance of maintaining accuracy and impartiality.

Among others, Dy. DEO Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat, CEO Kishor Kumar, Dy. CEO Dr. G. M. Pujoo, District Informatics Officer and other concerned were present.

Assembly Election-2024 Pre-Counting Training on ETPBMS for Counting Staff held at Kulgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, OCTOBER 3

A comprehensive pre-counting training program on the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot Management System (ETPBMS) was today conducted for the designated counting staff at Kulgam.

The training was organized under the guidance of Returning Officers of District Kulgam to ensure smooth, accurate, and efficient handling of ETPBMS.



During the training, District Informatics Officer briefed the counting staff about the guidelines of Election Commission.

The counting staff was demonstrated in detail about the handling of ETPBMS during the counting.

Cabinet approves National Mission on Edible Oils - Oilseeds for 2024-25 to 2030-31

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 3

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the National Mission on Edible Oils - Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds), a landmark initiative aimed at boosting domestic oilseed production and achieving self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) in edible oils. The Mission will be implemented over a seven-year period, from 2024-25 to 2030-31, with a financial outlay of Rs 10,103 crore.

The newly approved NMEO-Oilseeds will focus on enhancing the production of key primary oilseed crops such as Rapeseed-Mustard, Groundnut, Soybean, Sunflower, and Sesamum, as well as increasing collection and extraction efficiency from secondary sources like Cottonseed,

Rice Bran, and Tree Borne Oils. The mission aims to increase primary oilseed production from 39 million tonnes (2022-23) to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31. Together with NMEO-OP (Oil Palm), the Mission targets to increase domestic edible oil production to 25.45 million tonnes by 2030-31 meeting around 72% of our projected domestic requirement. This will be achieved by promoting adoption of high-yielding high oil content seed varieties, extending cultivation into rice fallow areas, and promoting intercropping. The Mission will harness ongoing development of high-quality seeds by using cutting-edge global technologies such as genome editing.

To ensure the timely availability of quality seeds, the Mission will introduce an Online 5-year rolling seed plan through the 'Seed

Authentication, Traceability & Holistic Inventory (SATHI) Portal, enabling states to establish advance tie-ups with seed-producing agencies, including cooperatives, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and government or private seed corporations. 65 new seed hubs and 50 seed storage units will be set up in public sector to improve the seed production infrastructure.

Additionally, over 600 Value Chain Clusters will be developed across 347 unique districts, covering more than 10 lakh hectares annually. These clusters will be managed by value chain partners such as FPOs, cooperatives, and public or private entities. Farmers in these clusters will have access to high-quality seeds, training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), and advisory services on weather and pest management.

Assembly Elections-2024 DEO Bandipora visits Counting Centre, inspects Strong Room

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 3

The District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Thursday visited designated counting centre established at HKM Government Degree College Bandipora for Assembly Elections 2024 and inspected strong room where EVMs of three ACs of Bandipora district are securely stored.

During the visit, DEO reviewed the security measures in place to ensure the integrity and safety of the EVMs and emphasized the importance of transparency and preparedness as the counting date approaches.

It is worth mentioning that counting is scheduled to be held on 08 October in Bandipora District and EVMs will remain under high security until the counting process.

During the visit, the DEO reviewed key security elements, including round-the-clock CCTV surveillance, deployment of security personnel,



and strict access control protocols. He said comprehensive security protocols, including round-the-clock surveillance and access control measures have been implemented to safeguard the EVMs.

In addition, the DEO reviewed the arrange-

ments for the counting process, highlighting that multiple counting tables have been set up to facilitate efficient and accurate counting besides ensuring that adequate staff and resources are in place to manage the counting operations seamlessly.

Various activities under 15 days Swachhta hi Sewa initiative held at GDC Marh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 3

Students, faculty and staff of Government Degree College Marh conducted 15 days Swachhta hi Sewa under theme "Swabhav Swachhta-Sanskaar Swachhta" and celebrated International day of Non-violence on the eve of Mahatma Gandhi's Birth anniversary under the guidance of Principal of the college Prof Dr Rakesh Kumar Koul.

The 15 days event began with a mega cleanliness drive in the form of an awareness rally which started from GDC Marh and culminated at the adopted village Dhateryal in which the volunteers from NSS, students and faculty par-



ticipated actively.

A pledge was also taken on Swachhta Abhiyan by the students, teachers and Principal. Mega cleanliness drive was carried out in the college premises, streets, grounds and nearby areas of the canal falling under the adopted village.

Series of activities viz. lecture on hygiene, quiz competition on Gandhiji's life, seminar on Gandhiji's

vision for a sustainable future, symposium on theme Truth and Non-violence, slogan writings, screening of movie on life and contributions of Mahatma Gandhi, book reading "My Experiments with Truth", group discussions, awareness programme at Panchayat Flora Nagbani and Bhajan singing were held during the 15 days event.

Counting process: Training held for Counting Supervisors, Assistants & Micro-Observers at Shopian

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 3

The District Election Office, Shopian today conducted a day long training programme for Counting Supervisors, Counting Assistants and Micro-Observers at Mini Secretariat Shopian to acquaint them for conducting counting of votes smoothly on October, 08 as per ECI guidelines.

District Election Officer (DEO) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar presided and witnessed

one training session provided by RO Shopian and Master Trainers.

District Level Master Trainers provided detailed training sessions to prepare skilled and competent manpower for the counting of votes for two Assembly Constituencies of Zainapora and Shopian.

During the sessions of day long training, the participants were provided procedural know how for the smooth execution of the counting process including practical demonstration of handling of EVM, counting

procedures, etc. Returning Officer, Shakoor Ahmad while delivering his session, stressed on strictly following the rules and procedures of Election Commission of India (ECI) during the entire process.

DEO addressed the staff and called for strict adherence to the rules and procedures during the counting process while performing the duties with integrity and fairness. He also emphasized on maintaining discipline and to uphold complete privacy on the day of counting.

Assembly Elections-2024 DEO Shopian visits Counting Centres of Shopian, Zainapora ACs



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 03

The District Election Officer (DEO) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today conducted a thorough inspection of the Counting Centre at Mini Secretariat Shopian in order to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place for counting of votes, scheduled on October 8.

During the inspection, the DEO reviewed all facilities to be kept in place at the Counting Centres, including seating arrangements for candidates, agents and other facilities for staff

and other stakeholders.

He inspected the physical infrastructure being put in place including barricading for hassle free counting process, provision of IT & communication systems, security measures etc.

The DEO issued directions for ensuring that all procedures adhere strictly to Election Commission guidelines, with an emphasis on continuous monitoring.

RO Shopian, Shakoor Ahmad, Dy. DEO, Jahangir Ahmad, DIO, Shokat Hussain, DIO (Informatics) Ashfaq Ahmad and other officials also accompanied the DEO during inspection.

Commissioner JMC reviews arrangements for holy Navratra at Bahu Fort



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 3

Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr Devansh Yadav today visited Bahu Fort Bawe Wali Mata temple to take stock of arrangements put in place for the devotees during the holy Navratra.

During the visit, Dr. Yadav inspected various facilities, including sanitation, power and water supply besides all other provisions to accommodate the influx of devotees.

He engaged with temple staff and local authorities to discuss logistical aspects, such as health, sanitation, besides availability of other basic services for the devotees.

Emphasizing the importance of maintaining cleanliness in the premises and welcoming

environment during the festivities, the Commissioner directed the concerned JMC authorities to put in place adequate men and machinery during the holy Navratra, the Commissioner further instructed them to ensure cleanliness of lanes and drains, ponds, parks and lifting of garbage from roads and rehri zone so that the pilgrims do not face any inconvenience.

Among others, Joint Commissioner, (R&E) Rakesh Gupta, Director Project, JSCL Sunil Thusoo, Deputy Commissioner, (North) Sanjay Badyal, Deputy Commissioner (South) Lal Chand, Health Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma, besides other senior officers of JMC and JSCL accompanied the Commissioner during the visit.

Training program for counting staff conducted in Udhampur



J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 3

In preparation for the smooth conduct of counting of votes on October 8, the Election Authority Udhampur organized a training program for Counting Supervisors, Counting Assistants and Micro Observers which was held under the supervision of District Election Officer Udhampur, Saloni Rai, here at Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

The DEO said that all necessary arrangements had been put in place to ensure the efficient conduct of the counting

process. She directed the counting staff to strictly adhere to the prescribed guidelines and follow the rules meticulously throughout the vote counting procedure.

District Level Master trainers provided comprehensive training to the counting staff on the proper handling of Electronic Voting Machines and the process of counting postal ballot papers.

During the session, the Master Trainers addressed the doubts and queries raised by the participants, ensuring clarity on all aspects of the counting process.

Natrang's mega show 'Mata Ki Kahani' to be showcased daily at Katra from 4 Oct

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATRA, OCT 3

Natrang's mega musical theatre show 'Mata Ki Kahani' will be staged daily twice at the auditorium of Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra. Joined by the entire team of actors and performers of 'Mata Ki Kahani', the writer and director of this mega show Padamshree Balwant Thakur informed that for the devotees and visitors to the holy town Katra, Natrang Jammu is going to organise two shows daily at 3 pm and 6 pm at the Auditorium of Spiritual Growth Centre, opposite Shrine Board office Katra from Friday 4th of October, 2024. On the occasion he invited one and all to come and witness this magnificent show which is being shown free of charges. Sharing details he said that this is the first ever theatre show on the legend of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi. This electrifying production is set to vibrate the stage with highly spectacular theat-



ricals and is going to be the life-time opportunity for the spectators. People from Jammu may play to come to Katra along with their families to witness this not to be missed this show.

The story of Mata Vaishno Devi is a classic narrative that echoes every Hindu household and is a part of every grandma's midnight tale. As per the legend, during the period when the Goddess was busy in annihilating the Asuras, Her three main manifestations viz. Mata Maha Kali, Mata Maha Lakshmi and Mata Maha Saraswati got together one

day and pooled their collective Tejas or spiritual strength. A stunningly bright light emanated from the place where the Tejas of the three manifestations coalesced and a beautiful young girl emerged out of this Tejas. The young girl asked them, "Why have I been created?" The Devis explained to her that they had created her so that she would live on earth and spend her time in upholding righteousness. They asked her to take human birth in the home of Ratnakar, who was a devotee of three Goddesses, and then go on to lead a life of piety

and penance, so as to raise her own consciousness to the level of Godhead. They also told her that once she had attained that level of consciousness, she would then become one with Lord Vishnu. Soon a young and beautiful girl was born to Ratnakar and his wife. They named her Vaishnavi. Right from her childhood, the girl was spiritually inclined and had a quest for the knowledge of the inner self. She would go into deep meditation and stay in that state for hours together. She then decided to renounce all worldly comforts and travel deep into the forest

to perform severe austerities and penance. This is when she met Lord Rama, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu and attained his blessings. She wanted to become one with Rama, as was her mission. However, Rama, knowing that it was not the right time, promised her that he would visit her again, after the end of his exile. He told her that if she recognized him at that time, he would then fulfill her wish. Rama kept his promise, and came to meet her after winning the battle from Ravana in an old man's disguise. But unfortunately, Vaishnavi could not recognise him. She became upset when Rama showed his true self to her. Rama told her that the time had yet not come for them to be with one another and assured her that they would unite during Kalyug, when he would be in his incarnation of Kalki. Rama also asked her to set up her ashram in the foot of the Trikuta Hills and serve to uplift the poor and the destitute.

GCOE Jammu honors Padamshree Romalo Ram during meet the Alumni program



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 3

As part of two week long Induction-cum-Orientation Program of Four Year Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP), Government College of Education Jammu organized an interactive session on "Meet the Alumni". Under this initiative, the newly inducted students were given the opportunity to meet august alumnus of 1996-97 Batch Padamshree Romalo Ram.

The principal of the college Dr Jyoti Parihar presented Basoli Painting prepared by college students as a souvenir. She hailed his contribution towards the promotion of Dogri

art, culture and music. She also added that the college is proud to have produced three Padamshrees' so far and it was a great honor for the institution to have an alumnus that has created such rich legacy. Dr Rakesh Bharti, Convener ITEP apprised the students about life and contribution of Romalo Ramji. In his address to the students, Padsamsree Romalo Ramji recalled his struggles as a student as he hailed from remote area. He narrated the incidents related to the struggles that he had to face as a student from the rural village of Udhampur. He also apprised the students about the way he brought gold medal for the college in the annual cul-

tural event in 1996 which is still a record. He exhorted the students to serve the soil with passion.

Dr Shalini Rana, IQAC Convener, motivated the students to follow the footsteps of Romalo Ramji, who is a shining example of unparalleled dedication and commitment towards the promotion of rich Dogra art, culture and folk songs. She added that his life is a source of inspiration not only for the students but for the teachers also. The students enthusiastically interacted during the feedback session. The program was attended by Dr Rajinder Kour, Dr Devinder Kour, Prof Balwan Singh, Dr Ambica Sharma and Dr Suraj Prakash

'Vi Game to Fame' set to democratize esports gaming in India

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 3

In the run-up to the India Mobile Congress 2024, leading telecom operator Vi, today, announced the launch of its first ever grassroots eSports tournament - 'Vi Game to Fame'.

India, today, is among the top markets for gaming, accounting for approximately 20% of the world's total mobile game downloads. Vi Game to Fame aims to bring together amateur esports enthusiasts from across the country to compete, collaborate, showcase their skills and earn an opportunity to shine at not only national, but also at an international level.

Vi Game to Fame highlights the company's commitment to enable exciting immersive digital experiences for its customers and foray into gaming with a comprehensive mobile gaming platform - Vi Games. Vi Games

today, offers many premium and free online games across Cloud Gaming, Casual Gaming, eSports, AAA Games, Multi-Player Games and more, that can be played on the Vi App.

The first edition of the competition is set to kick off on 1st October 2024 and will feature Call of Duty: Mobile, with the grand finale to be held at the India Mobile Congress 2024, Asia's largest tech fest. Call of Duty: Mobile is a popular first-person shooter (FPS) title, with participants battling for prizes that amongst others include a trip to visit Team Vitality facility in Paris and get a chance to interact with global eSports teams & managing partners.

Registrations for Vi

Game to Fame opens from 1st October till 5th October 2024 through Vi's website (myvi.in) & Vi App. Seasoned, pro as well as casual gamers can witness esports excitement by registering for the competition. The tournament is open for both, Vi and non-Vi subscribers.

The first edition of the tournament will be played in a hybrid model in which participants will get to showcase their skills online in a knockout format. Top 6 teams from the online qualifier will move to the finale round in the form of two groups and square off in a round-robin format at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024, Asia's largest tech fest from 15th to 18th October 2024.

The top two teams from

each group will then proceed to the semis after battling it out in a best of 5 format. The winning team will get to play a show match with current national CODM Champions owned by Team Vitality. The Vi booth at IMC will also witness the presence of major gaming influencers including Triggered Insaan, Rachitroo, Helaa YT, Desky, Pyar SM, Foxxedo Gaming, Harchapri Play and Raman Chopra. All visitors at IMC will get a chance to participate in pop-up eSports tournaments at the Vi booth during the event.

Team Vitality is a renowned European esports organization, winner of the Best Esports Organization award 2023 and a strategic partner of Vi. The team registration, match schedule and tournament management is powered by Gamerji, which is a home grown esports tournament organizer.



AM group expands with new Bajaj dealership in Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 3

AM Group, a leading business conglomerate, has announced the launch of its new Bajaj dealership in Jammu, located at Bohri Road Talab Tillo. The state-of-the-art showroom was inaugurated by Chairman AM Group, Mr. Jatinder Gupta, along with MD AM Group, Sanjay Mahajan, and Directors Sanjeev Gupta, Ankur Mahajan, Akshay Mahajan, and other family members, including Mrs. Raj Mahajan, Vandana Mahajan, Sakshi Mahajan, and Aryan Mahajan.

Strategically located at Bohri Road Talab Tillo, the new dealership offers a vast range of Bajaj vehicles, including two-wheelers and three-wheelers. The showroom boasts modern facilities, including:

- Spacious display area



for vehicles

- Advanced service center with latest equipment

- Comfortable customer lounge

- Trained and experienced staff

"We are thrilled to expand our presence in Jammu with this new dealership," said Mr. Jatinder Gupta, Chairman, AM Group. "Our goal is to provide exceptional customer service and an unparalleled ownership experi-

ence for Bajaj customers in the region."

The dealership will offer a range of services, including sales, service, and spares. Customers can expect a seamless and transparent buying experience, with attractive offers and financing options available.

AM Group is committed to contributing to the economic growth of Jammu and providing employment opportunities to the local community.

Police arrests 2 drug peddlers in Sopore; Psychotropic substance recovered

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SOPORE, OCT 3

Police in Sopore have arrested two drug peddlers and recovered psychotropic substance from their possession. A Police party of Police Post Fruit Mandi headed by IC PP Fruit Mandi during patrolling at Nowpora Bypass Road apprehended two persons in a suspicious condition. During search, officers were able to recover 540 banned tablets (Alprazolam) from their possession. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 223/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Sopore & investigation has been initiated. General Public is requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that J&K Police will act tough against the criminals as per the law.

CBC organizes two-day outreach programme at Khaltasi on Mission LIFE and Poshan Abhiyaan

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KHALTSI, LEH, OCT 3

The Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, on Thursday organized a two-day Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme on Mission LIFE, Poshan Abhiyaan and Swachhata Hi Seva at the Multipurpose Hall of SDM Office, Khaltasi, Leh.

The experts and resource persons from ICDS, Health, and Education departments emphasized the importance of sustainable practices, cleanliness and waste segregation at source.

Discussions highlighted the importance of mindful consumption and the critical role of proper nutrition in eradicating malnutrition.

Speakers impressed upon the participants to adopt a balanced diet and lead a healthy lifestyle to improve the overall well-being of the society.

The Chief Guest, District Programme Officer



ICDS, Gh. Mohiuddin Wani, deliberated on various welfare schemes implemented under ICDS and urged participants to focus on nutrition and balanced diet as essential elements of a healthy lifestyle. He also encouraged

the adoption of sustainable practices in everyday life. Shahid Mohammad Lone, Field Publicity Officer CBC Anantnag, highlighted the role of CBC in the grassroots-level outreach, ensuring the citizens stay informed about

government schemes and fully benefit from them.

Naseer Ahmad Rather, Field Publicity Officer CBC Srinagar, underscored the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle. He noted that similar outreach programmes have been held across Ladakh UT over the past two weeks, with more events scheduled in Leh and Kargil districts until 10th October.

Departmental stalls were also set up by participating departments at the venue for on the spot delivery of services offered by them.

An open quiz and drawing competitions were held for the participants, who were awarded mementos and commendation certificates. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials from the sub divisional administration, teachers, ICDS workers, students and the local community.

The outreach activities in Khaltasi will continue on 4th October.

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 3

Reliance Trends, India's leading fashion destination, is thrilled to announce the launch of its new Autumn Winter collection, featuring a stunning array of men's, women's and children's wear for the upcoming festive season.

To make your festive shopping even more special, Reliance Trends is offering an unique "Every Day Lower Prices" concept deal on the new collections. Whether you prefer to shop in-store or online, you can enjoy the lowest prices that make it easier to add these stunning pieces to your wardrobe. Prices starts as low as Rs.199 and allows you to get best festive wear at great prices.

Step into a world where tradition meets modernity, where the rich cultural heritage of India is celebrated with a contemporary twist. The designs in the men's collection are inspired by the timeless beauty of nature, capturing



the essence of blooming flowers, the serenity of flowing rivers, and the majesty of towering mountains.

The new women's collection is a testament to the timeless beauty of Indian craftsmanship, reimagined for the modern woman. The collection offers a blend of traditional and contemporary styles that cater to the diverse fashion prefer-

ences of our customers. From side gathered kurtas to layered kurtas, co-ord sets, and ethnic dresses, each piece is designed to bring out the best fashion statement, blending the antique metallic look with contemporary designs that are perfect for the festive season.

The floral prints, the biggest trend of 2024, are a celebration of nature's beauty. They adorn a

variety of base fabrics and silhouettes, adding a fresh and vibrant touch to the festive wardrobe. The rich jewel colors - pinks, purples, shades of blue and ochres - are complemented by neutrals and pastels in a metallic finish, creating a palette that is both luxurious and sophisticated. The children's wear collection captures the essence of a vibrant meadow, with playful patterns and cheerful colors that bring a smile to every face. Soft, breathable fabrics ensure that little ones can move freely, whether they're chasing butterflies or building castles in the sand. The collection features whimsical designs that spark the imagination. Dresses adorned with twinkling stars and moonlit skies invite young dreamers to reach for the stars. T-shirts with friendly animal companions encourage children to explore the wonders of nature. Each piece is crafted with care, ensuring that comfort and style go hand in hand.

Indian Army empowering Women through tailoring skills in Pir Panjal region at Gambhir Rajouri

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 03 OCT 24

The Indian Army has embarked on a transformative initiative aimed at empowering women in the remote regions south of the Pir Panjal Mountains through a comprehensive sewing and tailoring course at Gambhir, Rajouri. This program focuses on enhancing the skills of local women, enabling them to achieve economic independence and foster a sense of self-reliance within their communities. At the heart of this initiative is the distribution of sewing machines, which are essential tools for participants to practice their newly acquired skills. Alongside the distribution, the Army is conducting a one-month training course covering fundamental skills such as basic stitching, measurements, and embroidery techniques. The response from the community has



been overwhelmingly positive. Many women have expressed their gratitude for the chance to learn valuable skills that will not only provide financial support to their families but also challenge traditional gender roles that often limit women's opportunities. By equipping these women with vocational training, the Indian Army

is promoting economic independence and helping to shift societal attitudes toward women's capabilities. This initiative aligns with broader national goals to empower women and promote gender equality across various sectors. As these women gain confidence and skills, they become role models in their com-

munities, inspiring younger generations to pursue education and careers outside the home. The impact of such programs is far-reaching, as empowered women contribute to the economic and social fabric of their communities. The Indian Army dedication to uplifting remote communities through education and vocational training is commendable. This program not only addresses immediate economic needs but also instills hope and ambition in women who previously had limited opportunities. As participants embark on their new journeys, they carry the potential to inspire others, creating a ripple effect of empowerment that can lead to significant societal change.

IGFRI Regional Station Srinagar organizes awareness cum Training Program at Daboh Samba in collaboration with KVK Samba

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 3

ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Regional Research Station Srinagar in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra Samba organized one day Awareness cum Training Programme on 'Recent Fodder Technologies for sustainable livestock productivity' on October 3, 2024 at Daboh Samba. The programme was organised under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan of IGFRI Jhansi, wherein 75 local scheduled caste farmers, mostly women participated.

At the outset, the guests and participants were welcomed by Dr Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist & Head KVK Samba

Dr Sheeraz Saleem Bhat, Scientist in charge & Senior Scientist, ICAR-IGFRI Regional Station Srinagar interacted with



farmers regarding the programme and highlighted the importance of recent fodder technologies and health supplements for healthy livestock. He also discussed how different fodder technologies can improve livestock productivity on sustainable basis in particular and socio-economic development of the farmers.

Dr Suheel Ahmad,

Senior Scientist IGFRI RRS Srinagar highlighted importance of feeding nutritious fodder and production technology of major fodder crops, post-harvest technologies, including hay and silage making, during the programme, besides package and practices for rye grass.

Dr Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist and Head KVK Samba delivered talk

on Fodder trees of Jammu and their role in livestock production system. He highlighted about different schemes of the government, role of KVK and local fodder crops.

Dr Sudesh Radotra, Principal Scientist and Incharge, IGFRI Palampur Centre chaired the programme and shared his views on different recent fodder technologies for sustainable production and utilization. He also enlightened the farmers regarding the package of practices for BN Hybrid, Paspalam and Setaria and their role in sustainable livestock production.

During the event, 75 demonstrations of rooted slips of different fodder crops (200000) and 50 kg rye grass seed were distributed among the farmers. The farmers lauded the efforts of IGFRI RRS Srinagar.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Maintaining peace...

Corps said. Lt Gen Ghai said that there hasn't been any active recruitment of militants this year. "The numbers were down to a dozen last year and this year it is next to nil," the GoC said.

He said as far as the terrorist-initiated incidents in Kashmir, they are between far and few. "Some incidents were reported where soft targets were made by even an untrained person using a pistol," the army officer said.

On the total number of active militants at present, the GoC said: "There are only 80 militants active in the region at present which is less than previous years," he said.

To a query whether any troop cut was possible at this juncture, the GoC said: "We are in a consolidation phase and no dilution of counter insurgency and counter terrorism grid is recommended. Both the grids need to be maintained. I definitely won't advocate any dilution to these grids at this stage," the GoC said.

Asked since the situation is peaceful in Kashmir, was there any possibility of troop-cut, he said at this point of time, the Valley was in a consolidation phase. "Both the grids—Counter insurgency and Counter terrorism needs to be maintained. I won't recommend any dilution to any of these grids," he said.

On whether launch pads were active across the LoC, the GoC said that as per the inputs received by the army, there were people present in the launch pads but "we didn't see the level of infiltration in Kashmir what we were expecting. Perhaps, the militants may have changed the strategy to sneak from Pir Panchal. LoC is not the only infiltration route, there are other routes as well," he said.

About foreign militants using modern technology, he said the army is also having the latest technology but there are always lessons to learn.

Asked any particular security scenario unfolding after October 8, the army officer said that there are no specific inputs about any challenging security situation emerging. "I am sure that the democratic process taking place after a long time will be for the good of the people. We keep on reviewing the situation from time to time. We keep a close watch on the various parameters and accordingly strategies are made," he said.

About the ongoing conflict between Israel and Iran in the wake of the killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrullah, he said there were some protests within Kashmir. "The situation is being monitored properly," he said.

To a query about convoy movements in Kashmir, the GoC said that convenience of the people is of the top most priority for the army. "Timings are reviewed to ensure people don't feel any sort of inconvenience," he said.

On narco-terrorism, he said not only the army but Police and the civil administration is concerned about it. "I had discussions about this issue with the former DGP RR Swain. I am sure that there is a collective approach to deal with the narco-terrorism issue," he said.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, the GoC said that during the past a year-and-a-half, numerous attempts counter infiltration steps were taken while simultaneously prosecuting a very robust and successful counter terrorist campaign within Kashmir. "While doing this, we have been very conscious of our responsibility and nation building. So, we have maintained our connection with the Awam (people of Kashmir)," the army officer said. GoC Ghai is heading for a new assignment on October 15 and he will be succeeded by Lt General Prashan Srivastava.

He said that the region is seeing a new beginning as numerous significant events are taking place besides development. "This is because of the efforts put in by (Chinar corps) 15 Corps, police, CAPF, police and numerous other security agencies," the GoC said.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, the GoC said that during the past a year-and-a-half, numerous attempts counter infiltration steps were taken while simultaneously prosecuting a very robust and successful counter terrorist campaign within Kashmir. "While doing this, we have been very conscious of our responsibility and nation building. So we have maintained our connection with the Awam (people of Kashmir)," the army officer said. "As I have been leading one of the most elite com-

mands of the army for the past 16 months, the situation in Kashmir is stable and peaceful at present."

He said that the region is seeing a new beginning as numerous significant events are taking place besides development. "This is because of the efforts put in by (Chinar corps) 15 Corps, police, CAPF, and other security agencies," the GoC said. KNO

Real kingmakers waiting...

The Lieutenant Governor will nominate these members based on the advice of the Home Ministry. This process follows an amendment to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, which was further revised on July 26, 2023, to introduce these nominations.

Political experts told KNO that the system mirrors the legislative structure of Pondicherry, where four nominated members already exist. However, this step has been taken in Jammu and Kashmir following the abolishment of the Legislative Council (MLC), and the nominated MLAs will be selected soon after the vote counting concludes on October 8, with the government potentially forming by October 15.

The inclusion of Kashmiri migrants and POJK displaced persons is being seen as a push towards addressing the unique issues of these communities. It is being said that such a move would ensure that the grievances of displaced Kashmiri Pandits, who fled Kashmir in 1990, would finally reach the Assembly.

With the amendment in place, lobbying, as per the insidious reports, has intensified among political leaders aiming for these new seats. According to sources, many influential figures, including veterans from the BJP and prominent leaders from the POJK region, are pushing for nominations.

A senior BJP leader wishing not to be named told KNO that the nomination process would commence as soon as election results are declared. "These nominated MLAs will have all the rights like elected ones. The process will begin soon to ensure their inclusion in the new government," he said. KNO

70% dip in violence...

at regular intervals in these three hotspots – Kashmir, Northeast, as well as the Left Wing Extremism-affected regions. It was so common in those days that such incidents were not even covered in the news," he said.

"However, thanks to the efforts of the Centre under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, incidents of violence have decreased 70 per cent and deaths due to such incidents also went down by 72 per cent in the last ten years in these three hotspots. It shows that India is on the path of becoming a nation free of terrorism and Naxalism," the Union minister further said.

Talking about the new criminal laws (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam), Shah said minute details were taken into consideration while drafting them.

"We kept in mind which new technology will be in practice even after 100 years while defining various sections of these laws. This will ensure there will be no need to change the laws for the next 100 years," he said.

"Once all the required infrastructure for the implementation of these laws is created, our justice system will become the most advanced in the world and people will get justice within three years starting from the registration of FIR till the hearing in the Supreme Court," the home minister averred.

Jammu & Kashmir records...

segments underwent polling on September 18, September 25 and October 01, 2024.

The counting of votes will however take place on October 08, 2024. KNO

Exchange of fire...

in the area. Police said that the area has a dense forest and terrorists have been giving a slip to forces due to the dense forests.

On September 13, two soldiers including a junior commissioned officer were killed in the encounter after they were critically injured during an exchange of fire

with hiding terrorists. KNO

Panchayat, Urban...

their completion.

Security forces were first deployed for the Amarnath Yatra and later for the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly polls.

After the conduct of Panchayat and urban body polls, all democratic processes, including the very grassroots level, will be completed in J&K post abrogation of Article 370.

A total of 27,281 panches (panchayat members) and sarpanches (village headmen) were elected in the 2018 elections. There were 12,776 vacant sarpanch and panch seats in J&K. Bypolls to the Panchayats were held in 2020.

The Panchayat polls in J&K are not conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) but by the J&K state election commission.

Almost 30,000 panches and sarpanches completed five-year terms on January 9, 2024, and with that, the disbursement of Rs 25 lakh panchayat fund also ceased. The 2024 Panchayat poll will be held after fresh delimitation of 'Halqas' (Revenue Villages). (Agencies)

Navratri festival begins...

of pilgrims from across the globe will come to pay their obeisance," Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Anshul Garg told reporters.

He assured that all necessary arrangements have been made to ensure a comfortable and peaceful yatra for the pilgrims.

"There has been a heavy rush of pilgrims since yesterday with over 45,000 devotees registered and we expect a similar foothold today," he added.

Multi-tier security measures have been implemented to ensure an incident-free yatra.

"Police, CRPF and Shrine Board security personnel have been deployed along the track from Katra to Bhawan. Elaborate security arrangements have been made following a full review," Garg said.

In response to the heavy rush of pilgrims, crowd management systems integrated with CCTV and RFID surveillance systems have been put in place.

"As many as 650 CCTV cameras are active with integrated cards to monitor all movements and a skywalk has been introduced for crowd management," he said. Additionally, a new langar will be set up at Ardh Kuwari to provide facilities for the pilgrims, supplementing the three major langars already in place.

The CEO said the board has taken additional initiatives this year.

"We are launching registration counters at Katra railway station, which will start functioning from tomorrow. Eight such counters are operational now," Garg added.

Thousands of devotees are enthusiastically undertaking the pilgrimage, viewing it as a chance to seek the blessings of Mata Vaishnodevi during Navratri. The shrine is approximately 15 kilometers uphill walk from the base at Katra.

Long queues were seen at the temple since early morning.

"We greet every devotee on Navratri and seek blessings not only for our families but for the entire nation, wishing for peace, progress and prosperity," said Sunit Kharu, a devotee from Maharashtra's Pune.

Navratri is an annual festival celebrated to worship Goddess Durga, with the celebrations lasting for nine days.

At Bhawan, prayers marked the onset of the nine-day Shardiya Navratri festival.

In Jammu, there were long queues seen at Mata Kali temple popularly known as Bawewali Mata located at Bahu fort in Jammu. Hundreds of devotees were lined up since pre-dawn time to pay obeisance at the deity. (Agencies)

PM Modi to address...

Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will deliver the closing address of the 3-day event scheduled from October 4-6.

The event is being organised by the Department of Economic Affairs and the Institute of Economic Growth.

Some of the discussions in these sessions will range from how the Indian economy can create more regular jobs; how the rules-based multilateral system must adapt to prevent geo-economic fragmentation, and how progress through multilateral consensus can be made possible.

The third edition of the Conclave would also delve on harnessing India's comparative advantage in AI, ML, and Fintech for job creation; assessing India's current growth trajectory and considering ways in which India can maintain productivity growth.

It will also discuss the reforms needed to make the financial system more resilient as well as efficient; identify long-term initiatives to achieve sustainable development goals; and discuss climate change and renewable energy.

"The conclave will showcase India's increasing role as a bridge-maker of countries in the Global South," the finance ministry said.

The speakers at the Conclave include Finance Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Lekey Dorji, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister P K Mishra, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Chief Economist Erik Berglof, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Beri, 16th Finance Commission Chairman Arvind Panagariya, and Harvard Kennedy School Professor of International Trade and Investment, Robert Lawrence. (PTI)

Dr Jitendra Singh...

The Minister credited Prime Minister Narendra Shri Narendra Modi for spearheading innovative governance reforms that have modernised the country's administrative processes. Reforms such as the abolition of interviews for Group B and C positions and streamlining recruitment timelines have significantly improved the transparency and efficiency of the government's functioning.

"These reforms are reflective of the Prime Minister's vision for a modern, merit-based system that prioritises performance and delivery," he said. Emphasising the need for results-driven governance, Dr Jitendra Singh noted, "The journey from optics to delivery is critical." He stressed that the success of governance should not be measured by appearances but by tangible outcomes that serve the public. "Moving from process-driven to performance-driven governance is the way forward for India to meet its global aspirations," he remarked.

Dr Jitendra Singh also referred to the introduction of 'Mission Karmayogi Prarambh', a key extension of 'Mission Karmayogi', designed to prepare new recruits for their roles from the moment they join the service. 'Mission Prarambh' ensures that new officers receive the necessary tools and training to transition smoothly into their positions, contributing to a more capable and motivated workforce across the government.

During the workshop, Dr Jitendra Singh launched four new features of the iGOT-Karmayogi platform, aimed at enhancing the learning experience for government officials. He also released 20 new domain-specific courses under the Annual Capacity Building Plan (ACBP) of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to further strengthen skill development across ministries. Additionally, the Minister unveiled the "Know Your Ministry" initiative for the DoPT and released new learning modules under Mission Karmayogi, all designed to bolster capacity-building efforts across the government.

The workshop saw the participation of several high-ranking officials, including Secretary, DoPT, Dr Vivek Joshi; Chairman, Capacity Building Commission, Shri Adi Zainulbhai; and CEO, Karmayogi Bharat, Smt V Lalitha Lakshmi, along with other senior officials from various ministries and departments.

In closing remark, Dr Jitendra Singh reaffirmed that these reforms and initiatives are vital steps in India's journey towards achieving its vision for 2047. The emphasis on capacity building, technology-driven governance, and performance-oriented processes will shape the future of Indian governance, aligning it with the evolving needs of a modern, competitive world.

Indian Army organized Swachhh Bharat Mission awareness drive at Jaurian, Akhnoor

JINNEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR: 03 OCT 24

In alignment with the Government of India's "Swachhh Bharat Mission," the Indian Army organized a comprehensive awareness drive at Jaurian to educate and engage local civilians on the importance of cleanliness, hygiene, and sustainable waste management. The event, held under the aegis of the Indian Army's continued commitment to nation-building, saw active participation from local residents, school children, and community leaders. Indian Army officials led informative sessions on the critical role cleanliness plays in promoting public health, preventing diseases, and creating a clean and green environment for future generations. The awareness drive included lectures, demonstrations, and interactive discussions covering various aspects



of hygiene, waste segregation, and the importance of community involvement in maintaining public spaces. Local residents were encouraged to adopt sustainable practices such as proper waste disposal, recycling, and reducing plastic use, in line with the Swachhh Bharat Mission goals. Speaking on

the occasion, the spokesperson emphasized the need for every citizen to contribute to the cleanliness movement, saying, "Swachhh Bharat is not just a mission of the government, it's a responsibility for each of us. By working together, we can transform our communities into cleaner and

healthier spaces. "The Indian Army remains steadfast in its commitment to contributing not just to national security but also to societal development and welfare. The Swachhh Bharat Mission awareness drive is part of a larger initiative to create a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable India.

IIM Jammu hosts talk on "Management Lessons from the Mahabharata: A Pathway to Leadership and Happiness"

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 3

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu organized an enriching offline talk titled "Management Lessons from the Mahabharata: A Pathway to Leadership and Happiness" in the Mandapam Auditorium on 3rd Oct 2024. The talk was led by Mr. Debasis Satapathy, Chief General Manager - HR at NBCC (National Building Construction Corporation) New Delhi, Government of India, a renowned expert in Human Resources.

The session began with a brief introduction of the guest speaker by Dr. Mamta Tripathi, Chairperson, Anandam, IIM Jammu, who set the tone for the event by highlighting his vast experience and his unique approach to integrating the teachings of the Mahabharata into modern management education. Her opening remarks created an ideal context for the enriching session that followed.

During his talk, Mr. Debasis Satapathy, Chief General Manager - HR at NBCC emphasized how the Mahabharata, the world's largest epic, offers



invaluable management lessons that remain relevant today. He highlighted how the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has advocated for the inclusion of Mahabharata's teachings to enrich management education. The session covered a wide range of leadership and management topics, including Strategic Thinking and Result Orientation, Empathy and Conflict Management, Talent Identification and Management, Planning and Organizing, Resilience and Perseverance, Proactive Leadership and Delegation, as well as the Art of Listening and Emotional Intelligence.

To make these lessons relatable, he demonstrated animated videos and clips from the Mahabharata, illustrating how its teachings can be applied to modern-day management challenges

in an easy-to-understand manner. He also engaged the audience with a practical exercise, encouraging everyone to stand and laugh aloud, showcasing the importance of positive energy and well-being in leadership.

The interactive session was followed by Q & A. The event was well-attended by IIM Jammu faculty, staff, and students, who left inspired with fresh insights on applying ancient wisdom to modern management challenges. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Eshika Aggarwal, Co-Chairperson, Anandam, IIM Jammu. The event was coordinated by Team Anandam, IIM Jammu.

This event reflects IIM Jammu's commitment to incorporating holistic and interdisciplinary approaches to leadership and management in its curriculum.

Aadil, Haider and Netra shine in Debate Event at IIMC

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 3

Amar Ujala Jammu, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Jammu, conducted a stimulating debate competition on its campus today. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students across the English Journalism, Digital Media, and Hindi Journalism departments.

The session began with a warm welcome speech by Dr. Dilip Kumar, Regional Director of IIMC Jammu. He motivated and encouraged students to participate in debates, as it helps build confidence and improve public speaking skills. This was followed by a detailed briefing on the rules and regulations by Mr. Gulshan Kumar, Academic Associate. The competition featured two groups, debating for and against the motion.

The event was graced by special guest, Administrative Head Baljit Kumar and photojournalist Abhishek Baru from Amar Ujala, Jammu.

Others present were Dr. Vinit Utpal, Assistant Professor (Digital Media), Dr. Raviya Gupta, Assistant Professor (English Journalism), Mr. Vishv, Assistant Professor (Digital Media), and Mr. Rajiv Kumar. The students passionately expressed their views on the future of print media versus digital media. Those in favor of print argued that it remains a trusted source of information, particularly in rural areas, offering distraction-free, focused reading without the threat of fake news. They also emphasized that we are in a period of convergence, rather than a complete digital shift. Conversely, the opposing group highlighted the accessibility and speed of digital platforms, especially audio-visual formats. They noted that news channels and e-newspaper services provided by traditional media outlets make news more accessible in today's fast-paced world.

ITBP flags off frontier level expedition "Mt Karzok Kangri"

JINNEWS SERVICE
LEH, OCTOBER 3, 2024

Being the leading flag bearer in mountaineering expeditions ITBP flag off a new frontier level expedition "Mt. Karzok Kangri" on 3rd Oct 2024 at Drona hall 5th Bn ITBP, Leh. The flag was handed over by Sh. Mukesh Singh (IPS), IG ITBP Headquarters to the expedition leader Sh. Satinder Singh Dy. Commandant in the presence of Sri Surinder Khatri DIG North West Frontier Ladakh, Dr. Vikas Pathak, (IPS) DIG Sector Ladakh, other senior officers of North West Frontier, Sector Ladakh and 5th, 16th, 24th BN and 37th BN ITBP.

The curtain raiser evening of Mountaineering adventure planned under the guidance of Sh. Clay Khongsai (IPS), IG North West Frontier, and Sh. Naresh Shaukand, DIG Srinagar was conducted at Drona Hall with full zeal and enthusiasm to set a new mile stone and to signify the formal commencement of the event.

Playing the pioneer role to the field of Mountaineering, 53 members North West Frontier expedition team is going to Summit the peak "Mt. Karzok Kangri" scaling the heights of 6105 Metres in the area of responsibility area of 37th BN ITBP under super vision of Sri Pardeep Singh Negi Pardeep Singh Negi Commandant 37th BN. ITBP has a long standing tradition of fostering the adventure spirit among all ranks. Proven with destiny and nature of duty the team has been equipped with all mountaineering equipments to excel the 16 days arduous adventure which will terminate on 18th October 2024.

In addition ITBP Expedition team will also conduct the cleanliness drive and medical camps during the adventurous journey.

ASCOMS Hospital organizes basic neonatal resuscitation program

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 3

Department of Pediatrics, ASCOMS Hospital in association with Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) organized Basic neonatal resuscitation program (BNRP) on 03/10/2024. The basic neonatal resuscitation program is a flagship program of the IAP under First Golden minute project where medical and paramedical personnels dealing with birth of newborn babies are trained to assess and resuscitate newborn babies if required. This training was attended by doctors from the department of Pediatrics, Gynaecology and Obstetrics, faculty from the nursing college and staff nurses. The team of instructors included Dr Sanjeev K Digra (Professor Department of Pediatrics SMGS Hospital), Dr Subash Sathia (Senior Pediatrician, Jammu), Dr Vikas Mahajan (Associate Profes-



sor, ASCOMS Jammu) and Dr Niraj K Gupta (Assistant Professor, GMC Doda). It is pertinent to mention that Dr Sanjeev K Digra and Dr Niraj K Gupta are the state coordinators for NRP and are instrumental for conducting these programs across the region.

Dr Ravinder K Gupta, Professor and Head department of Pediatrics ASCOMS, and President IAP Jammu was the chief course coordinator. He highlighted the importance of BNRP course in equipping the medical and paramedical staff with necessary skills to deal with any exigencies at the time of birth of a newborn. He also stressed that such

programs will continue to be held in future in the department. The scientific program was assisted by Dr Sushil Sharma (Assistant Professor ASCOMS), Dr Manoj Sharma (Assistant Professor ASCOMS) and Dr Wajid Ali (Assistant Professor ASCOMS).

Dr Rabinder Rattan Pal, Medical superintendent ASCOMS inaugurated the program and appreciated the efforts of department of Pediatrics ASCOMS under the guidance of Prof Gupta in organising such workshops on a regular basis. He also highlighted the importance of neonatal resuscitation program to curb down neonatal mortality.

Ministry of MSME Successfully Launches "Special Campaign 4.0" for Enhanced Cleanliness and Service Delivery

JINNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3, 2024

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, commences the "Special Campaign 4.0", a significant initiative aimed at achieving the goals of institutionalizing Swachhata and minimizing pendency across its offices nationwide from 2nd October to 31st October 2024. This campaign is focused on reinforcing cleanliness and optimizing service delivery across the Ministry's attached, subordinate and autonomous organizations as well as the field offices.

The "Special Campaign 4.0" comprises of two phases. During the Preparatory Phase carried out from 16th September 2024 to 30th September 2024, the Ministry set specific targets, including the identification of cleanliness campaign sites, planning for space management and office beautification, recognizing scrap and redundant items, and identifying pending references and State-level

matters for resolution.

In the Implementation Phase from 2nd October 2024, to 31st October 2024, the Ministry will focus on the execution of the planned activities, ensuring comprehensive coverage of cleanliness efforts and enhancing operational efficiency. The Ministry of MSME has issued necessary directives to all its divisions, statutory bodies, autonomous organizations, and field offices nationwide, to ensure a coordinated effort towards achieving cleanliness of work environment and streamlining service delivery. As a part of the Campaign, Ministry of MSME has undertaken several key steps to make "Special Campaign 4.0" a success which inter alia, includes the following:

Appointment of Nodal Officers: Nodal Officers have been appointed in offices to coordinate and monitor the Campaign's activities, ensuring smooth and effective implementation. Successful Identification of Key Tasks: Various preparatory tasks, such

as, identifying cleanliness campaign sites, implementing office beautification, removing redundant materials, and addressing pending references, were executed, contributing to the Campaign's objectives.

Awareness Initiatives: Banners and standees promoting the Campaign have been displayed in Udyog Bhawan and field offices, to raise awareness among employees and stakeholders. Active Utilization of Social Media Platforms: Information about the campaign is being disseminated through social media platforms, for widespread awareness and participation.

Ministry of MSME, in collaboration with its attached and field organisations, underlines its unwavering commitment towards achieving the targets set under "Special Campaign 4.0," making the initiative a notable success and reaffirming the Ministry's dedication for institutionalizing Swachhata and minimizing pendency across its operations.

NYK Rajouri concluded Swachhata Hi Sewa campaign program



JINNEWS SERVICE
SUNDERBANI, OCT 3

Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Rajouri successfully concluded Swachhata Hi Sewa Campaign Programme. In the Concluding event, Cleanliness drives were held in Tehsil Complex Sunderbani of district Rajouri. The campaign started from 17th of September and con-

NHRC's two-week online short-term internship concludes

JINNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3, 2024

The two-week online short-term internship program, organized by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), has concluded. It commenced on 17th September, 2024. 77 students from various universities and regions of the country, including remote areas completed it. The online format enabled the participation of students without incurring any expenses related to travel or accommodation in Delhi.

Addressing the valedictory session, Smt.

cluded today on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti.

Tehsildar Daljit Singh Parihar Sunderbani was the Chief Guest on the occasion. K K Khakhi the acting President of Senior Citizens Council Sunderbani was also present.

Amarjeet Sharma, President J&K Social and Cultural Council Sunderbani along with large

number of local youth clubs such as Shakti Mahila Mandal, Amar Youth Club and Young India Youth Club and president of Anmol cultural club Sunderbani Zorawar Singh also played an active role to organise a campaign and make it a Grand Success. Several wall paintings to motivate the masses about the cleanliness were also exhibited on the occasion.

Akshay Sharma and Samriti Sharma (Ex NYV) also participated actively in the campaign.

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAAS

With profound grief and sorrow we wish to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Sdn. Ravinder Kaur Gandhi** W/o S. Swatanter Singh Gandhi on 29th September 2024 at Delhi.



ANTIM ARDAAS will be held as per program at Gurudwara Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Chand Nagar (Opp. Hotel Fortune Inn Riviera) **BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** on 4th of October 2024 (Friday) at 10:30 AM

KIRTAN from 10:30 AM -12.00 Noon, followed by Guru Ji Ka Langar

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Vineet Raina (Vinny) & Lalit Raina (Daughter & Son-in-Law)

Daughter-in-Law & Son

Jasleen Kaur & Randeep Singh Gandhi (Rinnu)

Sisters-in-law & Brothers-in-Law:

Smt. Rajni & Shri Bharat Gandhi (Ex-MLA)

Sdn. Sarabjeet & S. Vijay Gandhi

Mrs. Akshi & S. Prakash Gandhi

Sdn. Manpreet & S. Puran Singh Gandhi (Retd. Chief Engineer)

Sister and Brother-in-Law:

Smt. Vigyan Bharti Kaila & Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila (Retd. AIR)

Bhabhis & Brothers:

Sdn. Rajinder Kaur & Lt. S. Kulbir Singh

Sdn. Parvinder Kaur & S. Sujinder Singh

Sdn. Manjeet Kaur & S. Manvinder Singh

Sisters & Brothers-in-law:

Lt. Pupinder Kaur & S. Pritam Singh

Sdn. Harjinder Kaur & Lt. S. Jasjit Singh Sachdeva

Sdn. Jatinder Kaur & S. Baldev Singh (Advocate)

Sdn. Manjeet Kaur & Lt. S. Harjit Singh

Grand Daughter: Sanvi Raina

Contact no. 9419111239; 8825065356; 7889357105

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Notice Inviting Tender

Sr. DEE/TR/JAT acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date 28.10.2024 at 15:00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (Rs.)	Cost of Tender form (Rs.)	Date & time for submission of tender	Earnest Money # (Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
651-TRD-JAT-2024-25	TRD Work in c/w shifting of OHE mast at proposed ROB at KM 2/08, 2/09 & 2/10 between QG - SDUA Section over Firozpur Division on Deposit basis.	25,05,391.56	NIL	Up to 28.10.2024 15:00 Hrs	50,100/-	Six (06) Months	28.10.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Note: # Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway. No.: 651-TRD-JAT-2024-25 Dated: 03.10.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EDITORIAL

Mirage of water sports in Jammu

If one goes by the reports in a section of the media, the promise of vibrant water-based activities at Mansar Lake and the Baglihar Hydroelectric Project dam site has been a recurring theme in tourism discussions for years. However, as expert opinions surface, it is becoming increasingly clear that these dreams are likely to remain just that—dreams—due to significant ecological, financial, and regulatory hurdles. First and foremost, the ecological integrity of these sites cannot be overstated. Mansar Lake, recognized as a Ramsar site, holds international significance for its rich biodiversity. The imposition of strict regulations, including a ban on motorized boats, highlights the delicate balance that must be maintained between tourism and environmental preservation. Engaging in activities that disrupt aquatic life is simply not an option. Experts have pointed out that any attempts to introduce water sports here would not only contravene international treaties but could irreparably harm the ecosystem. Similarly, the Baglihar Hydroelectric Project dam site faces scrutiny from professionals in water sports. Evaluations by the National Institute of Water Sports in Goa and foreign experts have deemed the strong currents of the Chenab River too dangerous for recreational activities like white water rafting. The potential risks involved should be taken seriously; disregarding these findings would not only jeopardize safety but could also lead to further reputational damage to the region. Financial constraints further complicate the situation. The Surinsar-Mansar Development Authority's annual budget of just Rs 1 crore to Rs 1.25 crore is inadequate for the development of new tourist facilities. The dual restrictions of ecological preservation and financial limitations mean that the authority can only make minimal improvements, which are not enough to transform the area into a thriving tourist destination. Even the prospect of addressing the longstanding issue of road damage around Surinsar Lake is mired in uncertainty. Although plans are being made to engage experts for a solution, the lack of funding raises questions about the feasibility of executing such plans. The recurring damage during the monsoon season reflects not only infrastructural neglect but also the difficulties of maintaining tourist-friendly environments under financial duress. The authorities have expressed a desire to explore alternative options for attracting tourists, yet without a clear vision or adequate funding, these aspirations risk becoming more rhetoric than reality. The emphasis must shift from pursuing high-risk water sports to developing sustainable tourism strategies that respect the ecological constraints of the area. While the desire to enhance tourism through water-based activities at Mansar Lake and Baglihar Dam is understandable, the reality is sobering. Experts' concerns about ecological risks, regulatory restrictions, and financial limitations cannot be overlooked. Instead of clinging to an unrealistic vision, stakeholders should focus on sustainable practices that preserve the natural beauty of these sites while providing visitors with meaningful experiences. In doing so, we can create a tourism strategy that respects our environment and enhances our communities without compromising our future.

OMKAR DATTATRAY

They say will begun is half done and "All is well that ends well." Both the old adages fit well with the crucial and historical Assembly elections. But at last the adage of all is well that ends well neutralizes the adage of well begun is half done as the assembly polls ended on a welcome, positive and encouraging note which shows that democracy has once again triumphed in this part of the country. The voting percentage eclipsed the voter turnouts of the first two phases of the polls as in the third and last phase of JK polls the voter turnout was more than 68.50 percent which is significant by every standard and surpassed the vote percentage of even the recently held Lok Sabha polls. The significant voter turnout in the third and last phase of elections surprised the poll pundits and they were taken unawares and there is a mood of jubilation and satisfaction not only among the people of the Himalayan region, but it is a matter of pride for whole country as well because the crown of India which Jammu and Kashmir has overwhelmingly and significantly vote this time and proved beyond doubt that at last democracy triumphed as the people of JK UT have voted for the formation of a democratic, peoples and popular government which will care for the people and will sincerely work for address-

ing the mundane issues of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. It is a matter of satisfaction and pride that all the three phases of JK elections passed peacefully and violence free elections is significant because the militancy in Jammu and Kashmir is on its last leg, but has not died down completely as yet. It is particularly significant that elections passed on peacefully and not a single life was lost in these elections. The peaceful conduct of polls is a feather in the cap of the election commission of India and on the UT's electoral administration. It also reflects the faith, trust and confidence of JK people in the democracy of the country and the unprecedented and larger participation in the elections this time shows the peoples resolve to see democracy thriving in this part of India. The ever larger participation and peaceful culmination of assembly elections symbolize that the by and large people of the UT are for change and democracy. The historical polls which have taken place after a long gap of 10 years and also first since 1887 assembly polls signify a significant change in the attitude of the people and their faith in the resilience of democracy. This election has been held totally in a free and fair manner since the assembly elections of 1987 and thus the outcome of this election will be based on truth and so the peoples verdict will reflect the true aspirations

of the gullible voters of the Jammu and Kashmir. The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve commendation and pat at their back for the peaceful and successful culminations of the crucial polls because after all it is the people of the UT who participated in the elections in large numbers and also cooperated with the ECI and UT electoral authority to make this democratic exercise successful. The eyes of the international community were set on these elections and the foreign dignitaries have personally watched the conduct of assembly polls and have conveyed their approval of the sanctity of these elections and have praised Indian democracy and its vibrant character. Which ever and whatever government comes to power after the counting of votes on October 8, should build on the mass participation of the voters and try to end militancy and also attend to address the important issues of the people besides fulfilling the promise made in election manifesto. The potential government which in all certainty will be a coalition arrangement should try to build Naya Jammu and Kashmir and wiped the tears from the eyes of alienate people of J&K, and also try to perform and deliver to the best of its capacity so that people will no longer feel ditched and deceived any more as in the past those elected to power have disregarded the electorate after coming

to power. This should not be allowed to happen and continue again in Jammu and Kashmir as the people have voted for change, development and end of the political vacuum and uncertainty. Those elected to power should come up to the expectations of the people who voted them to power and they should not consider themselves as kings and princes as the monarchy and autocracy has long age ceased and had paved way for democracy. The rulers should realize that people in a democracy are supreme and it is they who can make or mar a government and keeping this in mind that people are the masters and real sovereigns in a democracy should try to satisfy the people who elected them to corridors of power. This crucial election has empowered different sections of the J&K society. For the first time since the independence of the country and electoral democracy, the West Pakistan Refugees and Valmiki Samaj community have voted and as such a long demand of these communities has been fulfilled and they have said that it is really such emotion which cannot be expressed in words. Similarly people residing very near at the line of actual control and also those living near international border have voted in large numbers. Another significant and noteworthy thing about this poll is that people residing in vil-

lages have participated in large numbers in voting as compared to urban people. Besides it has come to fore that people this time have voted for change, development and for empowering themselves so that the fruits of democracy and development reaches not only to them but to the last man in queue. People of Jammu and Kashmir have rejected violence and gun culture which in fact was alien to their culture and thus ballet has defeated bullet and it is no ordinary thing but is significant feature of the current elections which have just culminated successfully and peacefully. The fact that in the third and final phase of polls, long queues of voters were seen waiting in front of the polling booths and this is diversion from the past practices in JK elections and this election is significant in more than one way. It is no less than an important political development and change from past practice that in north Kashmir such as Sopore, Baramulla and Kupwara which were known for poll boycott in the past three decades, this time witnessed a overwhelming rush of the voters is a significant and positive development. The people of north Kashmir have also voted in big numbers for change and development and employment. The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election has in fact been a spectacle of what democracy means. The electors of Jammu

and Kashmir have broken all previous records as they have registered a significant and unprecedented voter turnout which points towards the fact that the voters have voted in large numbers and vouched and approved democracy and Modi's policies of developmental politics away from the negative politics of pseudo secularist congress and other such parties. There is significant deepening of democracy in J&K because of this assembly election is opined and observed by Rajiv Kumar chief election commissioner. The fact is that people, this time have voted for Naya Jammu and Kashmir and now it is in the court of New Delhi and the new potential government to implement the vision of Naya Jammu and Kashmir and balm the hurt feelings and bruised wounds of the people here. In short it can be appropriately stated that the last and the third phase of JK polls has ended on a happy and positive note and so it can be opined that "All is well that ends well." This election will be written in golden letters in the electoral history of Jammu and Kashmir. Salute to the sagacious voters of Jammu and Kashmir who have seized the momentous opportunity to vote in large numbers to give themselves a democratic and popular government which will care for the people.

The author is a columnist, social & KP activist

TRAITS OF A TRUE LEADER

RACHNA LAKHPATI

The concept of servant leadership is an interesting and refreshing approach to leadership in the competitive corporate environment of the present day. In this style of leadership, the focus is on empowering individuals within the team to grow and excel in their careers, fostering a culture of success and personal development. Servant leadership is a strong force in building teams that are high-performing, loyal, and motivated. At its essence, servant leadership revolves around genuine concern and care for individuals. It's not about seeking popularity or seeking approval. Creating the right atmosphere is crucial for everyone to thrive.

A true leader understands that their success is intertwined with the success of those they serve. Small gestures can have a big impact on the team. Whether it's a thank-you note, lending an ear, or offering a helping hand during tough times, these actions can make a difference. Creating a culture that values humility, acknowledges mistakes, and respects diverse perspectives fosters an atmosphere of respect and openness. When leaders prioritise the well-being of their members in their leadership, they earn loyalty through a genuine concern for their people rather than relying on their authority or instilling fear. Only then will they likely go the extra mile when they sense genuine care and understanding



on a deeper level. Loyalty is not something that can be demanded, but rather something that can be earned through consistent and authentic action. A manager or supervisor who truly appreciates the hard work of their team members goes beyond just words and takes action, offering growth opportunities, publicly recognising achievements, and providing support during chal-

lenging times. This fosters a positive atmosphere, resulting in members who are more motivated and dedicated to the group. Inspiring leaders foster a strong sense of camaraderie and purpose within their teams by instilling a deep sense of belonging to the vision. They create a sense of collective purpose while ensuring that every individual feels included in the task at hand. This

will ignite a fire within the team members, driving them to reach new heights of productivity and effectiveness. Leaders who prioritise the success of the team over personal recognition are more effective at inspiring and rallying people. By doing so, a powerful chain reaction is set in motion: It fosters a spirit of collaboration and cooperation. We thrive on collaboration, celebrating achievements as a team, and fearlessly tackling obstacles together. Contrary to what many believe, the foundation of strong and influential leadership lies in humility and compassion. Leaders who embrace a servant mindset are not afraid to get their hands dirty and collaborate with their team members. They understand

that true power comes from empowering others, rather than simply exerting authority. The impact of servant leadership on a team or organisation runs deep and brings about profound transformation. The servant leader places a high emphasis on the growth and success of their members, using actions that instil a strong sense of loyalty, dedication, and motivation. Acts of kindness, modesty, and generosity are not signs of weakness but powerful tools for creating strong and cohesive teams. In a world where leadership is often seen as a display of power, servant leaders demonstrate that true strength lies in selflessly serving others. (The writer is a motivator and a freelance writer; views are personal)

Navigating the new safety norms for heavy industry

ASMITAL

The manufacturing industry is already grappling with a complex web of regulations, and a new stringent regulation has been added to the mix. Recently, The Ministry of Heavy Industry has introduced the 'Machinery and Electrical Equipment Safety Regulation 2024' to ensure that safety practices in India align with global standards. While these new standards aim to enhance safety and compliance, they are expected to significantly impact Indian manufacturers, primarily micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which previously also complied with over 400 regulations. The new regulation will impact over 50,000 types of machinery, including industrial equipment like pumps, compressors, cranes, and transformers. Manufacturers must adhere to stringent safety requirements set by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). However, many Indian manufacturers, particularly MSMEs, may struggle

to meet these new standards within the given one-year deadline (August 2025), as they often operate with limited resources. Under the new machinery safety standards, all manufacturers must register with the BIS and obtain a BIS standard mark or certificate of conformity. Compliance will be governed by three distinct safety standards: Type A, B, and C. Type A standards are general safety guidelines for all machinery. At the same time, Type B covers generic safety requirements, and Type C standards are machine-specific safety guidelines. While the regulation does not apply to machinery exclusively manufactured for export, most companies produce goods for domestic and export markets, making BIS certification necessary for their entire product range. The requirement for prior BIS approval for both production and imports could create bottlenecks in production and impact the availability of essential machinery and equipment. Fiscal and Technical Burden: The new machinery

safety standards will impose a significant financial burden on MSMEs. Compliance costs vary widely, ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh, depending on the type and complexity of the machinery. These costs cover certification, safety upgrades, risk assessments, employee training, and the technical requirements to bring machinery up to standard. Many MSMEs operate within thin margins, and these costs may lead to closure for some businesses. In addition to financial challenges, many smaller firms need help with a technological gap, as they may need access to advanced machinery or technology that complies with the new standards. Retrofitting existing equipment or purchasing new machinery will require a significant investment, which may be out of reach for smaller businesses. Furthermore, MSMEs often need a more skilled workforce to implement the necessary safety measures, which can strain already tight budgets. Another major challenge is the complex-

ity of the regulations themselves. The technical language used in the order is complex for smaller firms to navigate, and the lack of detailed implementation guidelines from BIS has only added to the confusion. MSMEs, which frequently operate with limited administrative resources, struggle to understand how to comply with these multi-layered standards. More precise instructions would enable many firms to proceed with the necessary upgrades. Impact: This regulation will have a significant effect. India's machinery and electrical equipment imports, totalling \$25 billion in FY2024, could face delays as companies await BIS approval. With 39.1 per cent of these imports originating from China, delays could worsen supply chain bottlenecks, further slowing industrial growth. Domestic manufacturers catering to the local and export markets must successfully navigate the new compliance landscape, which adds to the regulatory burden on an already stressed sector. While

machinery intended for export is not subject to the regulation, most manufacturers produce goods for both domestic and international markets. This means that even businesses focused on exports will need BIS certification for their entire product line. Consequently, the exemption offers limited relief, and manufacturers must adhere to the same safety standards. Challenges in Implementation: Adopting a phased approach to implementation is imperative to address these challenges. The current one-year compliance timeline is unequivocally inadequate, particularly for MSMEs that lack the financial and technical resources to meet stringent safety standards. Extending the deadline to afford MSMEs more time to adapt is not just a preference but a necessity. A three-year timeline for meeting Type A standards and an additional five years to comply with Type B and C standards is not just a suggestion but a requirement. This approach aligns with the phased regulatory models

in other countries, such as the European Union, where industries are routinely allocated five to seven years to transition to new safety standards. Furthermore, implementing the standards in phases based on the machinery's complexity and risk level is not just a recommendation but a mandate. This approach allows firms to prioritise safety upgrades without jeopardising their operations. For example, enforcing horizontal safety standards (Type A) followed by vertical (Type B and C) standards as businesses gain the technical and financial capacity to comply is not just an option but a necessity. The medical devices industry in India provides a practical example, where voluntary registration was initially encouraged, followed by mandatory standards based on the risk level of the device. This model is not just a suggestion but a blueprint that could be adapted for the machinery sector, providing a more manageable path toward compliance. The Way Forward: Govern-

ment support is crucial in helping MSMEs meet the new safety standards. Financial assistance, such as subsidies or low-interest loans, must help smaller firms afford the necessary upgrades to their machinery. Additionally, the government must conduct awareness campaigns and training programs to educate businesses on the importance of these regulations. It is imperative to establish a dedicated helpdesk to guide MSMEs through the certification process, alleviating confusion and streamlining compliance efforts. MSMEs often lack the expertise needed to navigate such complex regulations, and without access to trained consultants, many businesses will struggle to meet compliance requirements. Here, industry associations can and must play a pivotal role. By negotiating bulk certification agreements, conducting training sessions, and providing technical guidance to MSMEs, these associations are ideally placed to bridge the gap between government regulations and industry readiness, ensuring a smoother

transition for smaller firms. Certifying technical professionals who can assist in implementing these standards is essential. The Machinery and Electrical Equipment Safety Regulation-2024 represents a necessary step toward improving manufacturing safety in India. However, the challenges facing MSMEs in complying with these new regulations are substantial. Therefore, a phased approach to implementation, combined with targeted government support, is crucial to ensure that the benefits of these new regulations are fully realised without unduly burdening the MSMEs, the backbone of Indian manufacturing. (The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika IITL Group, Vice-Chairman/Cabinet minister rank) of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council and President of Tractor and Mechanization Association (TMA); Views expressed are personal)

New Alzheimer's drug shows promise to prevent buildup of tau proteins in brain cells

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

In a promising breakthrough, an international team of researchers from the UK, US, and Japan has developed a new Alzheimer's drug that effectively prevents the build-up of Tau proteins -- a key driver of neurodegeneration.

The drug, a peptide inhibitor called RI-AGO3 blocked both Tau aggregation 'hotspots' for the first time in both lab and fruit fly studies.

While Tau proteins play a crucial role in maintaining the structure and function of brain cells, these, however, malfunction in Alzheimer's disease. The proteins clump together to form long and twisting fibrils, which when accumulated create neurofibrillary tangles.

The masses of twisted Tau proteins then clog



the brain cells, preventing them from getting the nutrients leading to their death. The more brain cells die, memory, thinking, and behaviour becomes increasingly impaired, leading to the cognitive decline seen in Alzheimer's.

The research, published in the *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal*

of the Alzheimer's Association, focussed on two specific 'hotspots' of the Tau protein where this clumping tends to happen.

While current treatments target one or the other of these hotspots, RI-AGO3 uniquely targets and blocks both.

"There are two regions of the Tau protein that act like a zipper to enable it

to aggregate," said lead author Amritpal Mudher, Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Southampton.

"For the first time, we have a drug which is effective in inhibiting both these regions. This dual-targeting mechanism is significant because it addresses both domains that stimulate Tau aggregation, potentially paving the way for more effective treatments for neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's," she added.

RI-AGO3 was developed using computational biology and tested in lab dishes.

To test its effectiveness in cells within a living organism, the researchers gave the drug to fruit flies that had pathogenic Tau. The researchers found the drug suppressed neurodegeneration and extended the lives of the flies by around two weeks -- a sig-

nificant extension considering the life span of the insects.

In fruit flies fed with RI-AGO3, "the pathogenic fibrils decreased significantly in quantity," Mudher said, with a higher dose showing a "greater improvement in the fruit fly's lifespan."

Further, the researchers tested the drug in a biosensor cell -- a type of living human cell line that is engineered to detect pathogenic tau fibril formation.

Here too, the drug successfully penetrated the cells and reduced the aggregation of Tau proteins.

The team believes their work will have a significant impact on drug discovery efforts in the field of neurodegenerative diseases and now plans to test RI-AGO3 in rodents, before proceeding to clinical trials.

India now a member of International Medical Device Regulators Forum

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has become an affiliate member of the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF), the ministry announced on Thursday.

IMDRF is a global network of medical device regulators that promotes regulatory convergence and public health and safety.

The CDSCO had applied for the IMDRF membership in August to achieve global alignment in its medical device regulatory system. The regulator received the approval during the 26th Session of IMDRF held in September in Washington, US.

"Achieving affiliate membership in the IMDRF will provide significant

opportunities for reliance and collaboration with regulatory authorities around the world," the ministry said, adding it will strengthen the "Brand India" in the global market.

Currently, IMDRF members include national regulatory authorities from the US, Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, the UK, Brazil, Russia, China, South Korea, Singapore, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

To align with the global standards, the Health Ministry on Thursday also introduced comprehensive regulations for medical devices.

The initiative is aimed at aligning the country's regulatory framework with globally accepted standards, and seeks to foster a regulatory ecosystem that promotes growth and innovation in the medical device sector.

Further, the IMDRF

membership will also help to harmonise regulatory requirements across the globe, which reduces the complexity for manufacturers and helps safeguard public health by promoting collaboration, harmonising regulations, and promoting convergence.

The membership also helps to support innovation and timely access to new medical devices.

The ministry said that "as an affiliate member, India will participate in IMDRF Open Sessions to have information exchange on technical topics with other regulators".

The discussions will range from the latest medical device regulatory strategies and trends to providing feedback on India's experience and perspectives and using IMDRF documents in part or in whole as the basis for India's regulatory framework for medical devices.

Bilateral hip replacement surgery helps 65-year-old woman to walk after 2 years

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

A 65-year-old woman weighing just 23 kg has successfully undergone bilateral hip replacement surgery, enabling her to walk after two years of being bedridden, according to a private hospital here on Thursday.

"It is India's low-weight bilateral hip replacement surgery on a 65-year-old woman weighing just 23 kg," said CK Birla Hospital, Delhi, in a statement.

"She is the lightest person of this age in the country to undergo such a complex surgery," it added.

Shubhangi Devi had been suffering severe pain for the past two years in both hips due to advanced age-related arthritis, rendering her unable to walk, and fully dependent on a wheelchair.



The doctors opted to proceed with Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) -- a surgical method that uses smaller incisions and advanced techniques that minimise tissue damage, resulting in less postoperative pain, faster recovery, and a quicker return to daily activities.

Devi underwent two surgeries -- first on the right hip and later on

the left -- each carefully planned and completed within approximately one hour.

The surgery presented several challenges for the doctors. She had a high risk of bone fractures during the procedure due to her severely osteoporotic bones, which were brittle and soft with low calcium content. In addition, her small bone size

made implant placement particularly difficult.

Despite the heightened risk of anaesthesia-related complications due to her advanced age, the medical team managed these risks effectively.

Post-surgery, the patient experienced a smooth recovery with no complications. She was able to walk with a walker the very next day and was discharged after six days with a comprehensive care plan.

"Regular follow-ups, proper diet, and physiotherapy are essential to ensure the longevity of the implants and overall health improvement. We are optimistic about Shubhangi Devi's complete recovery and her ability to lead a pain-free, independent life," said Dr Ashwani Maichand, Director of Orthopaedics at the hospital.

WHO launches global plan to fight dengue, Aedes-borne arboviral diseases

AGENCIES
New Delhi, Oct 3

Amid rising cases of dengue and other Aedes-borne arboviruses such as Zika and chikungunya, the World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday launched a global plan to reduce the burden of disease, suffering and deaths.

The Global Strategic Preparedness, Readiness, and Response Plan (SPRP) looks to foster a global coordinated response with actions to control transmission. It also offers recommendations to affected countries across various sectors, including disease surveillance, laboratory activities, vector control, community engagement, clinical management, and research and development, through a whole-of-society and regional approach.



"The rapid spread of dengue and other arboviral diseases in recent years is an alarming trend that demands a coordinated response across sectors and across borders," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

The WHO said that an estimated four billion people are at risk of infection from arboviruses around the world, and this number is estimated to increase to five billion by 2050.

An estimated four billion people globally are at risk for dengue, and the disease is now endemic in more than 130 countries. The number of dengue cases has approximately doubled each year since 2021, with over 12.3 million cases as of the end of August this year -- almost double the 6.5 million cases reported in all of 2023.

In December 2023, WHO graded the current global dengue upsurge 2023 as grade 3, the highest level of emer-

gency for the UN health body, to support countries to strengthen their surveillance capacities and implement response activities.

Ghebreyesus urged for "clean environments to support vector control and timely medical care" to fight dengue.

He called the SPRP plan "a roadmap to turn the tide against this disease and other Aedes-borne arboviral diseases, protect vulnerable populations, and pave the way for a healthier future".

Factors such as unplanned urbanisation and poor water, sanitation and hygiene practices, climate change, and international travel, are facilitating the rapid geographical spread of dengue, Zika, chikungunya, and more recently the Oropouche virus disease, the WHO said.

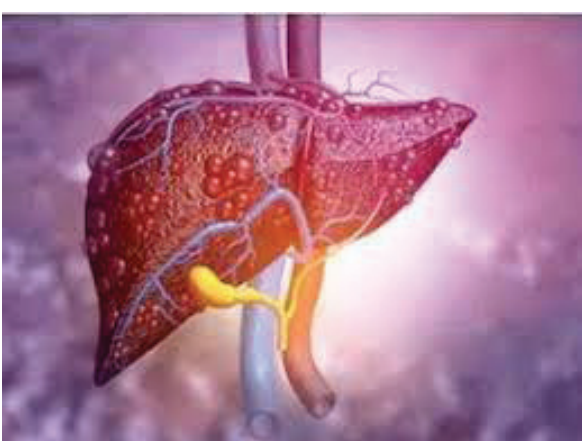
DIABETES, OBESITY INCREASES RISK OF LIVER CANCER RELAPSE: STUDY

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

Diabetes and obesity can fuel the relapse of liver cancer -- the sixth most common cancer worldwide, according to a study.

The study led by Osaka Metropolitan University, focussed on hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) -- a type of liver cancer associated with hepatitis infections -- known to have a high recurrence rate after cancer removal. It is also the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths globally.

Obesity and diabetes, which are closely associated with metabolic syn-



drome development, are well known to induce steatotic liver diseases, potentially causing liver cirrhosis and HCC development.

However, obesity and diabetes' effects on patient

survival and cancer recurrence have been unclear.

"Because the risk of late recurrence is higher in hepatocellular carcinoma with comorbid obesity and diabetes, controlling

obesity and diabetes is an important treatment strategy for the liver cancer," said Dr. Hiroji Shinkawa's research team at the University's Graduate School of Medicine.

In the study, published in the journal *Liver Cancer*, the team analysed the relationship between diabetes mellitus, obesity, and postoperative outcomes in 1,644 patients with hepatocellular carcinoma who underwent liver resection.

The results revealed that obesity increased the risk of recurrence two years after the operation approximately by 1.5 times, and in the case of diabetes, the risk was 1.3

times higher.

In addition, the risk of recurrence after five years postoperatively was 3.8 times higher with obesity, while with diabetes it was 2 times higher.

The findings can contribute to the early detection of cancer recurrence and the design of appropriate treatment strategies, Shinkawa said.

Obesity is a common risk factor for type 2 diabetes, and the two conditions are often linked.

Recent research showed that the number of adults with obesity will increase by six times in the next 40 years, while people with diabetes will soar 642 million by 2040.

Ban tobacco sales to prevent lung cancer death in 12 lakh youths: Lancet

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

Banning the purchase of cigarettes and other tobacco products for youth can significantly prevent 12 lakh lung cancer deaths in the young population, according to a study, published in *The Lancet Public Health* journal on Thursday.

The findings aim to secure future generations from the risks of smoking, which is the biggest risk factor for lung cancer. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death worldwide and is estimated to cause more than two-thirds of the 18 lakh deaths every year.

In the first-of-its-kind simulation study, researchers from the University of

Santiago de Compostela, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), called for creating a generation of people who never smoke.

They suggested banning the purchase of cigarettes and other tobacco products for people born between 2006 and 2010. Their results showed it can prevent 12 lakh lung cancer deaths in 185 countries by 2095.

This could prevent 40.2 per cent (1.2 of 2.9 million) of the total lung cancer deaths expected to occur in this birth cohort by 2095.

"Lung cancer is a major killer worldwide, and a staggering two-thirds of deaths are linked to one preventable risk factor -- tobacco smoking. Our modelling

highlights how much there is to gain for governments considering the implementation of ambitious plans towards creating a tobacco-free generation," said Dr. Julia Rey Brandariz, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

"Not only could this save huge numbers of lives, it could massively reduce the strain on health systems of treating, and caring for people in ill health as a result of smoking," Brandariz added.

The study further showed that banning tobacco sales could prevent almost half of expected lung cancer deaths among men (45.8 per cent), and close to one-third of expected deaths in women (30.9 per cent).

KIMS inks MoU with Intuitive to establish 25 robotic surgery programs

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, OCT 3

Hyderabad-based Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) Hospitals, one of India's leading corporate healthcare groups, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Intuitive, a global technology leader in minimally invasive care and the pioneer of robotic-assisted surgery (RAS).

This collaboration will

establish 25 robotic surgery programs featuring da Vinci robotic-assisted surgical systems in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Kerala, with a focus on expanding access to advanced minimally invasive surgical care in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, a release said here on Thursday.

The Robotic Surgery Centre of Excellence will be based out of KIMS-PES Hospital, Bangalore and

will provide training for all Robotic Surgeries across specialities to all KIMS branches in India.

KIMS Hospitals is committed to increasing access to quality care through patient-centric systems and processes. Through this collaboration with Intuitive, KIMS Hospitals seeks to enhance the availability of advanced surgical technology across geographies where access has been limited, ensuring

that no patient is denied treatment due to economic limitations.

Commenting on the collaboration, Dr. Bollineni Bhaskar Rao, Chairman, and Managing Director of KIMS Hospitals, said, "This collaboration with Intuitive signifies an important step in KIMS Hospitals' commitment to expanding our capabilities and improving patient outcomes through minimally invasive care.

Higher doses of lithium aspartate promising for long Covid patients: Study

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, OCT 2

Low doses of lithium aspartate is ineffective in treating the fatigue and brain fog that is often a persistent feature of long Covid, researchers said on Wednesday. However, higher doses may be promising.

An estimated 17 million people have long Covid in the US, and worldwide the number is estimated at 65

million.

Published in the journal *JAMA Network Open*, the study was led by Thomas J Guttuso, professor of neurology at University of Buffalo. "It's a negative study with a positive twist," said Guttuso.

Since long Covid is believed to stem from chronic inflammation and lithium has known anti-inflammatory actions, Guttuso had recommended that a patient of his try

low-dose lithium for persistent long Covid symptoms.

He was surprised when this patient reported a near full resolution of fatigue and brain fog within a few days of initiating lithium aspartate at 5 milligrams a day.

Based on this single case, Guttuso became interested in lithium aspartate as a potential treatment for long Covid and recommended it to

other such patients. According to Guttuso, nine of 10 long Covid patients he treated with lithium aspartate 5-15mg a day saw very good benefit in terms of improvements to their fatigue and brain fog symptoms.

"Based on those nine patients, I had high hopes that we would see an effect from this randomised controlled trial," says Guttuso. "But that's the nature of research.

Maintain balance between personal ambitions and social sensitivity: Prez Murmu to students

AGENCIES
JAMMUR, OCT 3

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said education was the best mode of empowerment, and advised students to maintain a balance between their personal ambitions and social sensitivity.

She said that one's welfare is easily achieved by doing good to others.

Addressing the 32nd convocation programme of Mohanlal Sukhadia University at Udaipur, she said, "Education is the biggest mode of empowerment. This institute has been scripting stories of empowerment as there is a big list of students coming out from this university who have extended their contribution in diverse areas by making a mark. One amongst these students is Punjab Governor Gulabchand Kataria."

The President urged students to extend their

cooperation to realise the dream of a developed India by 2047. "We have set a goal of 'Developed India by 2047' and this goal will be attained by your dedicated efforts. I am confident that you will extend your cooperation in this regard," she added.

"The great personalities of Mewar and Udaipur have played an important role in the freedom struggle and nation-building. This region has been witness to the struggle for national identity for centuries. This region of Rana Sanga, Maharana Pratap, and the great saint poetess of the Bhakti period Mirabai can be called the region of the confluence of power and devotion," she said.

The President further said that this institute is educating over one lakh students out of which many students are tribals. "The tribal community has enhanced the country's pride," she said and



asked students to study the profile of dignitaries. "You will get introduced to personalities who can be ideal to you," President Murmu added. She recalled Ambedkar's words and said Constitution maker and

violent animal. I request you all that you should not do any such work which brings a bad name to your character. You should have integrity in all your work. All your work should be justified. You have to make a mark in the 21st century in this fast-changing world. You will have to maintain the spirit of the student and pave a mark of success by hard work and dedication," she told the students. The convocation programme was presided over by Governor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde.

Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Gulabchand Kataria, Deputy Chief Minister and Higher Education Minister Dr Premchand Bairwa were present as guests in the programme.

A total of 102 gold medals were given to 85 students in the convocation ceremony, which included 16 males and 69 females. These gold

medals also included eight Chancellor medals which were given to two male and six female students.

Apart from this, a total of 68 students were awarded PhD degrees, including 35 female students.

President Murmu termed it as a proud moment for the society and nation and said that it is good to see girls taking steps to success and coming out with flying colours in diverse streams.

It needs to be mentioned here that the President is on a two-day trip to Rajasthan.

On Friday, the President will grace the Global Summit on the theme 'Spirituality for Clean and Healthy Society' organised by the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya at Mount Abu. On the same day, she will also grace the Adi Gaurav Samman Samaroh organised by the Rajasthan government at Mangarh Dham.

Development projects, hospitals, schools HM Shah's Navratri gift to Gujarat



AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD, OCT 3

As the Navratri festival begins, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah arrived in Gujarat for a day's visit on Thursday.

During his visit, the Home Minister will unveil development projects worth crores of rupees in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar.

HM Shah will lay foundation stones and inaugurate several key infrastructure projects aimed at boosting the state's

growth and development. He will be joined by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi, Minister Rushikesh Patel, Tourism Minister Mulu Bera, and other prominent dignitaries.

HM Shah will head to the GMERS Hospital in Sola, Ahmedabad, to lay the foundation stone for a new advanced block. This initiative is expected to elevate the hospital's capacity and provide better health care services to the city's population.

'Main accused in Delhi's Rs 5,600 drug haul is Cong office-bearer': Sudhanshu Trivedi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi on Thursday said that Congress office-bearer Tushar Goyal was the main accused in the national capital's largest drug bust amounting to Rs 5,600 crore.

BJP RS MP, in a press conference, said: "The main accused in the Delhi drugs haul is Tushar Goyal, the chief of the RTI cell of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC)."

"This means that it is becoming clear that till now only goods of hatred were visible in Rahul Gandhi's shop of love, but now drugs are also being found. What is the



connection of Congress with the drugs recovered and the accused?" he said and demanded that Rahul Gandhi should come clean on the alleged nexus between the party's office-bearer and the drug syndicate.

"What relation does the Congress party have with Tushar Goyal? Was this money to be used in Haryana polls? Are some Congress leaders having any deal with the drug peddlers? Congress, especially

the Hooda family should reveal their connection with Tushar Goyal," he demanded.

BJP spokesperson also showed Tushar Goyal's appointment letter and claimed that it has the names of Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

He also showed pictures of Tushar Goyal with Congress General Secretary K C Venugopal and Congress MP Deependra Hooda.

The BJP spokesperson claimed that the investigating agencies had found Deependra Hooda's number in Tushar Goyal's mobile.

He also drew the attention of agencies' alertness in drug seizures, under the BJP government.

'Unconstitutional': SC on caste-based division of labour in prisons

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

The Supreme Court on Thursday held, as unconstitutional, the practice of employing "lower caste" jail inmates in cleaning and manual scavenging work in prisons.

A bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud directed that the "caste" column and any references to caste in prisoners' registers inside the prisons will be deleted.

The Bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, asked all states and Union Territories to revise their prison rules providing caste-based division of labour in jails within a period of three months.

Further, it also asked the Union government



to make changes in the Model Prison Manual 2016 and the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act 2023 within three months.

The apex court took suo motu cognizance of the discrimination inside prisons on any grounds such as caste, gender, or disability, and ordered listing the case "In Re: Discrimination Inside Prisons in India" after a period of

three months. "On the first date of hearing of the above suo motu petition, all states and the Union government shall file a compliance report on this judgment. The DLSAs and the Board of Visitors formed under the Model Prison Manual 2016 shall jointly conduct regular inspections to identify whether caste-based discrimination

or similar discriminatory practices, as highlighted in this judgment, are still taking place inside prisons," it said.

Further, the Supreme Court asked the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to prepare a common status report after compiling reports of joint inspections conducted by DLSAs and the Board of Visitors.

The writ petition filed before the top court contended that forced employment of "lower caste" prisoners in cleaning and manual scavenging work in the state prison manuals amounts to state-sanctioned untouchability, and such practices need to be removed root and branch from society.

It added that the practice of forced employ-

ment of the "lower caste" prisoners in consensory work is in direct violation of "The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013", which prohibits any person or agency from engaging or employing any person in manual scavenging.

The petitioner Sukanya Shantha said that "many state prison manuals still discriminate against members of denotified tribes through segregation, classification, and other discriminatory practices within prisons" when the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court had held that a prisoner enjoys all constitutional rights and protections except those that are impaired naturally and directly as a result of the confinement.

BJP slams Kejriwal for deteriorating state of Delhi's roads, pollution

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

BJP National General Secretary Dushyant Kumar Gautam visited the Vivek Vihar New Friends Colony underpass on Thursday and criticised former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for the deteriorating state of Delhi's roads and rising pollution levels.

Gautam also brought a cutout of Arvind Kejriwal labelled 'Kattar Corrupt.'

During his inspection of the damaged roads along with BJP workers, Gautam said, "The way the roads are broken, pollution and dirt is spreading - Kejriwal is solely responsible for this. He has neither built new schools nor hospitals and has failed to



bring development to the national Capital."

Gautam also urged voters to support the BJP in the upcoming elections,

stating, "Now, is the time for change. Delhi needs a capable and progressive government, and the BJP is the only party that can

ensure the development of the city."

He emphasised the importance of removing Kejriwal from power to pave the way for a 'double engine government' that would drive development forward.

He also promised that under the BJP's leadership, a new era of development would begin in Delhi, reiterating the party's commitment to improving infrastructure, including roads and highways.

As the Assembly elections approach, both the BJP and Aam Aadmi Party are actively engaging with the public.

While the AAP's National Convener promotes his government's achievements, the BJP continues

to highlight its claims of the ruling party's failures.

Earlier on September 29, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi announced a road assessment and repair plan.

All AAP Cabinet ministers have been designated with the task of identifying roads that are in poor condition in the next week, after which the Public Works Department (PWD) will carry out repairs.

Last week, CM Atishi, Kejriwal and several other AAP leaders and ministers hit the ground to take stock of the situation on Delhi's roads and assured the people that repair work on the roads of the national Capital would be taken up on a war footing.

Crowds throng Himachal temples with onset of Navratri

AGENCIES
SHIMLA, OCT 3

Crowds of devotees assembled in temples across Himachal Pradesh on Thursday and offered prayers on the first day of the nine-day Navratri festival, considered an auspicious period by Hindus.

One of the busiest shrines, the hilltop Naina Devi temple in Bilaspur district saw a majority of pilgrims from Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi. The popular shrines of Chintpurni in Una district and Jwalaji and Brajeshwari Devi temples in Kangra district too witnessed a rush.

"We are expecting a daily arrival of 30,000 to 35,000 devotees during

the Navratras," an official at the Naina Devi shrine told IANS.

He said the temple would be closed only for two hours a day during Navratras.

Security has been beefed up and closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras have been installed to manage the crowd in all the prominent shrines, a senior police official told IANS. Shardiya Navratri will culminate with the celebration of Dussehra on October 12.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu said that virtual 'puja' and live 'darshans' have emerged as new-age practices and to strengthen the bond between the devotees and the Shaktipeeths.

He said online platforms have been developed aiming to offer services like religious offerings, purchasing religious materials, including 'prasad' and making donations for Mata Jwalamukhi temple, Vajreshwari temple and Chamunda Devi temple in Kangra district.

He said that through online platforms, devotees can book special offerings, request rituals to be performed on their behalf and even receive 'prasad' by post. "Directives have been issued to uphold the sanctity of religious practices while performing virtual ceremonies and to ensure that traditions are not compromised," an official statement quoting the Chief Minister said.

Mysuru Dasara festival begins, prayers held for end to Israel-Hamas, Russia-Ukraine conflicts

AGENCIES
MYSURU (KARNATAKA), OCT 3

The famous 10-day Dasara festival began here at the city palace atop Chamundeshwari Hill on Thursday amid religious and traditional fervour with prayers for peace and an end to Israel-Hamas and Russia-Ukraine conflicts.

Renowned writer and scholar Hampa Nagarajaiah inaugurated the festival by offering floral tributes to Goddess Chamundeshwari at auspicious Vruschika lagna in the presence of Chief

Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar and other dignitaries.

In his inaugural speech, Hampa Nagarajaiah wished for an end to the Israel-Hamas conflict and Russia-Ukraine war.

The Karnataka government is celebrating the Dasara festivities with grandeur this time. All dignitaries including CM Siddaramaiah arrived on a bus to the venue. The flower show, film festival, Raita Dasara, Kusti Dasara, Yoga Dasara, exhibition, cultural programme and lighting arrangements

were inaugurated.

CM Siddaramaiah offered worship to 'Nandi Dhwa' and paid floral tributes. He also participated in the special worship of Goddess Chamundeshwari. The state government has also organised the Cauvery Aarti on the banks of the Ganga Aarti for five days on the banks of River Cauvery in historical Srirangapatna town.

Hampa Nagarajaiah in his inaugural speech stated, "Let Isreal-Palentine, Russia-Ukraine wars end; Let female feticide stop; let there be



equal representation to women in legislatures; let the thinking of toppling

governments should not arise and let the elected governments be saved...

Dasara festival transcends the limits of religion. It is immaterial whether one believes in God during Dasara. This is not a festival confined to the palace. This is a festival celebrated by the elected government," he stated.

He further stated, "CM Siddaramaiah and Dy CM D.K. Shivakumar are facing the political challenges bravely in the current scenario. Life is a battleground. One needs to be courageous and face challenges. Simplicity and good nature are not signs of weakness. I will pray

to Goddess Chamundeshwari that everyone should have the strength to face adversaries in life...The job of destruction is easy but building something is difficult. Elections should not be held repeatedly. No political party will be in power permanently. The defeated party can come to power after five years. If allegations and counter allegations, use of derogatory words become a model for youths, what would be the fate of this land?" Hampa Nagarajaiah said.

Speaking at the inaugu-

ration event, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, stated, "Women preserve the family, and it is the female deities who protect this state. The strength of Karnataka lies in the power of women...Last year, during the Dasara inauguration, we prayed to Chamundeshwari for good rainfall. You may fail by trying, but you cannot fail by praying. Accordingly, good rainfall blessed the state, and both the Chief Minister and I offered prayers at four major reservoirs this year," he stated.

India, Nepal, Bangladesh ink pact to facilitate cross-border electricity trade

AGENCIES
KATHMANDU, OCT 3

In the first such cross-border energy trade pact, a long-awaited tripartite power sales agreement (PSA) among India, Nepal and Bangladesh was signed on Thursday here.

As part of the tripartite agreement, Nepal will export 40 MW electricity to Bangladesh via the Indian grid in the first phase -- from June 15 to November 15.

India will make arrangements to supply electricity from Nepal to Bangladesh, it was announced during the meeting.

The tripartite PSA was signed between the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), the Bangladesh



Power Development Board (BPDB) and NTPC Limited, India's leading power generation company.

The route of electricity export from Nepal to Bangladesh has now been officially opened with this trade pact. Nepal has been exporting electricity to India for three years.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Nepal's Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Dipak Khadka; Bangladesh's Forest, Environment, Climate Change and Water Resources Minister Syeda Rizwana Hasan; and Indian Ambassador to

Nepal Naveen Srivastava.

As per the NEA officials, the rate per unit of electricity has been fixed at 6.4 cents. From the export of electricity, Nepal will make an annual income of around \$9.2 million, as per reports. The electricity will be exported to Bangladesh via the Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur 400 kV transmission line, with the metering point in Muzaffarpur. In December last year, Bangladesh's Cabinet Economic Affairs Committee had approved the import of 40 megawatts of electricity from Nepal. The pact was earlier scheduled to be signed in July but was postponed due to political turmoil and a change of government in Bangladesh.

US lauds 'historic' UK-Mauritius agreement securing future of strategic Diego Garcia base

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, OCT 3

The United States on Thursday welcomed the "historic agreement" between the United Kingdom and Mauritius on the exercise of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago and securing the strategically-important UK-US military base on Diego Garcia, after two years of intense negotiations.

The agreement sees Mauritius assume sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) of Chagos Archipelago, with the UK authorised to exercise the sovereign rights of Mauritius on Diego Garcia.

The political agree-

ment also means that it will be for the first time in more than 50 years that the status of the strategic base will be undisputed and legally secure.

"I applaud the historic agreement and conclusion of the negotiations between the Republic of Mauritius and the United Kingdom on the status of the Chagos Archipelago. It is a clear demonstration that through diplomacy and partnership, countries can overcome long-standing historical challenges to reach peaceful and mutually beneficial outcomes," said US President Joe Biden in a statement released by the White House.

The agreement had strong support from sev-

eral countries, including the US which has joint operation of the strategic military base.

"I would like to congratulate my UK counterpart John Healey on the historic agreement reached between the United Kingdom and Mauritius that protects the long-term, secure, and effective operation of the UK-US military base on Diego Garcia. This agreement will safeguard the strategic security interests of our two nations and our partners in the Indo-Pacific region," US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin posted on X.

Earlier in the day, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer spoke to the Prime Minister of Mau-

ritius, Pravind Jugnauth, reiterating the importance of reaching the deal to protect the continued operation of the UK-US military base on Diego Garcia.

"This government inherited a situation where the long-term, secure operation of the Diego Garcia military base was under threat, with contested sovereignty and ongoing legal challenges. Today's agreement secures this vital military base for the future," commented UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy.

He detailed that Diego Garcia has seen a small number of vulnerable migrants arrive since 2021, subsequently launching asylum claims.

India slams USCIRF once again for peddling 'motivated narrative'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

India on Thursday once again urged the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) to desist from its "agenda driven efforts" by misrepresenting facts and peddling a "motivated narrative" about India.

Responding to media queries regarding the 'Country Update' on India in the USCIRF report, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) slammed the US federal government agency which monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) abroad and makes policy recommendations to the country's President, Secretary of State and US



Congress.

"Our views on the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom are well known. It is a biased organisation with a political agenda. It continues to misrepresent facts and peddles a motivated narrative about India. We reject this malicious report, which only serves to discredit USCIRF further," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

"We would urge USCIRF to desist from such agenda driven efforts. The USCIRF

would also be well advised to utilise its time more productively on addressing human rights issues in the United States," he added. It is not for the first time that New Delhi has slammed the "biased and inaccurate comments" made on India by the USCIRF. India has repeatedly and "regrettably" stated over the years that USCIRF continues to "misrepresent facts" time and again in its statements and reports "in pursuance of its motivated agenda".

Iran, Saudi Arabia vow to resolve differences, boost ties

AGENCIES
TEHRAN, OCT 3

Iran and Saudi Arabia have emphasised the need to set aside their differences and work towards the expansion of bilateral relations.

During a meeting in the Qatari capital Doha late Wednesday, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud discussed the promotion of bilateral ties, Israeli attacks on Gaza and Lebanon, as well as Iran's recent "retaliatory attacks" on Israel, according to a statement published on the website of Pezeshkian's office on Thursday.

Pezeshkian expressed satisfaction with the growing momentum of bilateral relations and emphasized Iran's willingness to



enhance interactions with Saudi Arabia in all sectors.

While referring to the Iranian missile attacks on Israel on Tuesday evening, Pezeshkian said Iran does not welcome the escalation of tensions and crisis in West Asia.

He warned against indifference to the displacement and suffering of the

Palestinians and Lebanese caused by Israel's "brutal" attacks. He urged greater unity among Muslim countries to halt Israel's "aggressions" in Gaza and Lebanon and to prevent their spread to other Islamic states.

The Iranian president highlighted Saudi Arabia's role as a major Islamic

country in ending Israeli "crimes" through consultations with Western states.

The Saudi minister voiced his country's determination to develop relations with Iran, Xinhua news agency reported.

"We seek to close the page of differences between the two countries forever and work towards

the resolution of our issues and expansion of our relations like two friendly and brotherly states," he said.

He highlighted the "very sensitive and critical" situation in West Asia due to Israel's "aggressions" against Gaza and Lebanon and its attempts to expand the conflict in the region. He said Saudi Arabia trusted Iran's wisdom and discernment in managing the situation and contributing to the restoration of calm and peace in the region.

Iran and Saudi Arabia formally declared in April of last year the resumption of diplomatic relations with immediate effect.

Saudi Arabia cut diplomatic ties with Iran in early 2016 in response to attacks on Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran. The attacks followed Saudi Arabia's execution of a Shiite cleric.

India welcomes return of Mauritian sovereignty over Chagos Archipelago

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

India on Thursday welcomed the agreement between the United Kingdom and Mauritius on the return of Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, emphasising that the treaty completes the decolonisation of Mauritius.

"India has consistently supported Mauritius's claim for sovereignty over Chagos, in line with its principled stand on decolonization and support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations, as well as its longstanding and close partnership with



Mauritius," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

"This significant understanding completes the decolonisation of Mauritius. The resolution of the longstanding Chagos dispute after two years of negotiations, in compli-

ance with international law, is a welcome development," it added.

The government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has remained committed to upholding a rules-based international order and promoting peace and security across

the Indo-Pacific region.

Over the last 10 years, New Delhi has also strengthened its Maritime Vision (SAGAR) and continues to collaborate with the countries of the Indo-Pacific Region for the security and growth of all in the region.

"India remains committed to working with Mauritius and other like-minded partners in strengthening maritime safety and security and contributing to enhanced peace and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region," the MEA said on Thursday evening.

Earlier, the United States also welcomed the "historic agreement" between the United Kingdom and

Mauritius on the exercise of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago and securing the strategically-important UK-US military base on Diego Garcia, after two years of intense negotiations.

The agreement sees Mauritius assume sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) of Chagos Archipelago, with the UK authorised to exercise the sovereign rights of Mauritius on Diego Garcia.

The political agreement also means that it will be for the first time in more than 50 years that the status of the strategic base will be undisputed and legally secure.

46 killed, 85 injured from Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon over past 24 hours: Ministry

AGENCIES
BEIRUT, OCT 3

The death toll from Israeli airstrikes on different areas in Lebanon over the past 24 hours reached 46 while injuries stood at 85, the Lebanese Health Ministry reported.

The ministry said that five people were killed and five others injured in the Baalbek-Hermel governorate, while 23 people were killed and 41 others wounded in the Nabatieh governorate.

It added that 11 people were killed and 21 others wounded in the South governorate, Xinhua news



agency reported.

The Bekaa region saw six deaths and 17 injuries, while one person was killed and another wounded in Mount Lebanon, the ministry said.

Since September 23, the Israeli army has been launching an unprecedented, intensive air attack on

Lebanon in a dangerous escalation with Hezbollah.

Hezbollah and the Israeli army have been exchanging fire across the Lebanese-Israeli border since October 8, last year, amid fears of a broader conflict as the war between Hamas and Israel continues in the Gaza Strip.

Australians urged to leave Lebanon in flight seats secured by govt

AGENCIES
CANBERRA, OCT 3

The Australian government has secured over 500 seats on flights for Australians to leave Lebanon.

Penny Wong, the minister for Foreign Affairs, on Thursday, said that the government will offer 500 seats on two commercial flights out of Beirut to Cyprus for Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family members on Saturday on top of 80 seats on flights on Thursday.

She said that 1,700 Australians in Lebanon had registered their intent to depart from Lebanon with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade but that only 35 out of 80 seats secured by the gov-



ernment on commercial flights on Thursday had been filled. "The operation of these flights will be subject to the security situation and, of course, the airport in Beirut remaining open," Wong told reporters, Xinhua news agency reported.

"What I would say to Australians who wish to leave, please take whatever option is available to

you. Please do not wait for your preferred route."

"Now is not the time for you to wait and see. Now is the time to leave," she said.

The federal government has repeatedly advised all Australians in Lebanon to leave immediately and warned that the Beirut airport could close amid the escalating conflict in the region.

EAM Jaishankar to meet Lankan President Dissanayake in Colombo on Friday

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI/COLOMBO, OCT 3

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar is scheduled to pay courtesy calls on new Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and the country's Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya during his official visit to the island nation on Friday.

"External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar will pay an official visit to Sri Lanka on October 4 and meet with the Sri Lankan leadership. In keeping with India's Neighbourhood First Policy and SAGAR outlook, the visit underlines the shared commitment of the two countries to further deepen the longstanding



partnership for mutual benefit," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

This will be EAM Jaishankar's first visit to the neighbouring country after Anura Kumara Dissanayake was sworn as the ninth Executive President of Sri Lanka on September 23 following his coalition's victory in the presidential

elections.

A day later, National People's Power (NPP) MP Harini Amarasuriya took the oath of office as the new Prime Minister of the country, only the third woman to hold the position after Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

"During this visit, the

External Affairs Minister of India is scheduled to pay courtesy calls on President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and Prime Minister Dr. Harini Amarasuriya.

The visiting Indian External Affairs Minister and his delegation will also have a meeting with Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Minister Jaishankar will be accompanied by senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs of India," the Lankan Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first foreign leaders to congratulate Dissanayake for winning the presidential elections.

"Congratulations Anura Dissanayake, on your victory in the Sri Lankan Presidential elections. Sri Lanka holds a special place in India's Neighbourhood First Policy and Vision SAGAR.

I look forward to working closely with you to further strengthen our multifaceted cooperation for the benefit of our people and the entire region," PM Modi said in a social media post on September 22.

India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Santosh Jha had also called on Dissanayake and conveyed greetings from India's leadership, just a few hours after the result was decided following Sri Lanka's first-ever presidential run-off.

62pc of Indian professionals believe AI is key for growth at work: Report

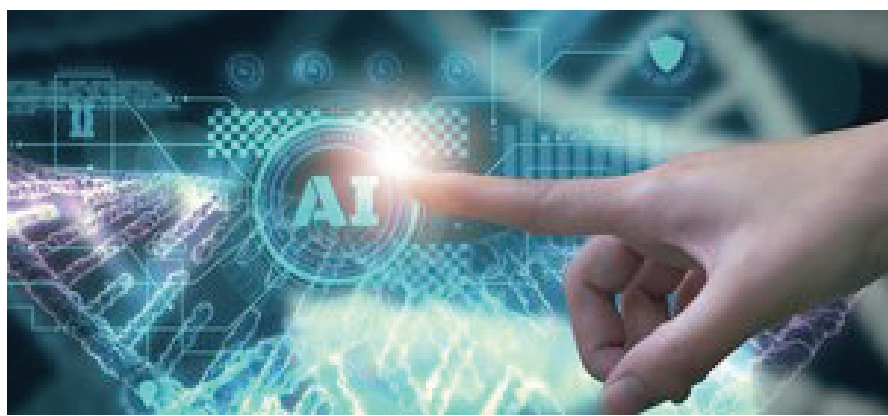
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

About 62 per cent of professionals in India are convinced that getting ahead in their career now depends on their comfort with Artificial Intelligence (AI), according to a new report on Thursday.

The report from networking platform LinkedIn showed that as jobs evolve, the biggest opportunity for workers in India is integrating AI into daily tasks (40 per cent).

As a result, the use of LinkedIn Learning courses focused on AI aptitude has spiked by 117 per cent among non-technical professionals over the past year, the report said.

LinkedIn data also shows a 123 per cent increase in posts mentioning flexible work over the last two years, highlighting how this continues to



be top of mind for workers as companies evolve their return-to-office (RTO) strategies.

Professionals in India are also realising how quickly work is changing and 90 per cent are looking for more guidance and support than ever before.

"With AI and hybrid work models changing how we work, staying informed about the latest industry trends is now

more important than ever," said Nirajita Banerjee, Career Expert and Head of Editorial, LinkedIn India.

"Today, 8 out of 10 (78 per cent) workers in India are already turning to industry leaders and peers for advice -- recognising the value of proactively seeking professional knowledge," Banerjee added.

More than 60 per cent

of professionals acknowledge the need for continuous learning with 41 per cent believing that upskilling is essential for career growth.

According to the research, 60 per cent seek guidance on the skills needed to navigate workplace change. Many are learning about tech advancements (44 per cent), sector-specific market analysis (35 per

cent), and social trends (35 per cent) to stay informed and prepared for future opportunities.

Nearly 50 per cent of professionals in India find short-form videos easy to engage with, while 46 per cent prefer long-form video courses focused on specific skills, considering them the most helpful.

Professionals particularly value videos with anecdotes and learnings (49 per cent), and unscripted podcast conversations (38 per cent), which help them make informed professional decisions and evaluate career prospects.

Professionals are also turning to LinkedIn for the knowledge and skills to help them adapt to the rapid changes in the workplace. With expert insights, AI-powered coaching, and real-time news, LinkedIn has the tools it needs to stay ahead.

Amber Wings unveils Vihaa drone to enhance agriculture sector in India

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3



UAV startup Amber Wings has unveiled an agricultural drone that will transform Indian farming by offering a faster, more efficient solution for crop management.

The agricultural drone 'Vihaa', by the IIT Madras incubatee, was recently certified by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

It has been designed to revolutionise the way farmers and agribusinesses operate across the country. It can spray crops with fertilisers, pesticides, and other treatments up to seven times faster than manual methods, helping farmers and businesses save valuable time and resources.

"Introducing 'Vihaa' marks a pivotal moment in our journey to enhance agricultural practices in India. Our mission has always been to provide

innovative solutions that empower farmers and drive industry growth," said IIT Madras Prof Satya Chakravarthy, Founder, Chief, and Technical Lead, Ubify Technologies.

"With 'Vihaa', we are not just offering a tool but a partner in modern farming, aiming to make advanced technology accessible across the country and support the broader drone technology sector's development.

Amber Wings is a sister brand of the acclaimed flying taxi startup The ePlane Company, incubated at IIT Madras.

The company currently offers spraying services in Maharashtra, Madhya

Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. The Drone maker plans to expand further in the coming months.

In addition to the Vihaa agridrone, Amber Wings is developing other drone solutions. The company's 'Atva' series of drones is designed for package delivery and aerial imaging that address the needs of logistics and e-commerce companies. Amber Wings is also prototyping a 50-kg payload drone to further expand its capabilities.

"We believe drone technology has the power to transform industries and unlock new possibilities for businesses," Chakravarthy said.

Adani Group, Google join hands to drive clean energy adoption in India

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD, OCT 3

The Adani Group and Google on Thursday announced a collaboration that will advance the companies' collective sustainability goals and add more clean energy to the national grid.

The Adani Group will supply clean energy from a new solar-wind hybrid project located in the world's largest renewable energy plant at Gujarat's Khavda.

The new project is expected to start commercial operations in the third quarter of 2025, the company said in a statement.

With proven capabilities in delivering large-scale wind, solar, hybrid and energy storage projects, the Adani Group is well-positioned to provide customised renewable energy



solutions to commercial and industrial customers to meet their energy requirements and reduce their carbon footprint.

Going forward, the Group plans to increase the focus on merchant, commercial, and industrial segments to help decarbonise industries.

"This innovative collaboration will help advance Google's 24/7 carbon-free energy goal by ensuring cloud services and operations in India are support-

ed by clean energy and, thereby, contribute to the sustainable growth of Google in India," said the company.

The collaboration was announced during the 10th anniversary of the 'Google for India' initiative.

"We're partnering with Adani to procure bundled energy solutions and advance decarbonisation of Google's cloud services in India," said the tech giant.

"This includes clean energy supply from a 61.4 MW solar-wind hybrid plant to be developed in Khavda, Gujarat, and expected to start commercial operations in 2025," Google said.

With interests across energy and utilities, transport and logistics (including seaports, airports, shipping, and rail), natural resources, and the consumer sector, Adani Group has established a leadership position in the market. As part of the portfolio, Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) is India's largest and one of the leading renewable energy companies in the world enabling the clean energy transition. AGEL develops, owns, and operates utility-scale grid-connected solar, wind, hybrid and hydro-pumped storage renewable power plants.

I-T probe links NGOs with foreign funding, stalling India economic projects: Report

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

A recent Income-Tax (I-T) probe into certain non-government organisations (NGOs) in the country has revealed their alleged links with foreign funding as well as their alleged involvement in activities stalling major economic and developmental projects in the country.

The I-T probe, initiated after searches on September 7, 2022, at the offices of Oxfam, the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), the Environics Trust, the Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment, and Care India Solution for Sustainable Development, alleges that these NGOs have been involved in activities that stall major economic and developmental projects in the country.

As per a report in The



Indian Express, over 75 per cent of the funding for four of the five NGOs came from foreign sources over a five-year span. The report mentioned, citing documents, that reliance on international donations is claimed to be influencing their operational agendas within India.

The report findings suggest that the NGOs are not only financially intertwined, but also share key personnel, further linking them in their missions.

The allegations in the probe include discrepancies in their annual returns and potential misutilisation of foreign funds. Following these findings, the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) licences for these organisations were revoked, leading to ongoing legal battles in the Delhi High Court.

While Oxfam is accused of allegedly supporting international campaigns against Indian corporations, notably targeting

the Adani Group, the CPR faces claims of mismanaging foreign donations, with the department asserting that it is involved in the Hasdeo movement against coal mining. According to the I-T report, Environics Trust is alleged to have funded local protests against significant industrial projects, including a steel plant by JSW, and is implicated in broader anti-development activities through its connections with international organisations by the department.

The NGO LIFE is said to be closely associated with foreign NGOs, specifically Earth Justice, and is accused of allegedly stalling coal projects in India through legal avenues.

Ritwick Dutta, founder of LIFE, has refuted claims of interconnection among the NGOs, insist-

Office space transactions in India see 18 pc growth in July-September, GCCs lead

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, OCT 3

Led by global capability centres (GCCs), office space transactions in India reached 19 million square feet in the July-September period (Q3) -- an 18 per cent year-on-year increase, a report showed on Thursday.

This is the highest quarterly absorption since Q1 2018. The year has already registered leasing of 53.7 million square feet, 27 per cent higher YoY, in the first nine months of the year -- set to breach a fresh annual high, according to the report by Knight Frank India.

GCCs accounted for 7.1



million square feet or 37 per cent of the transacted volume during Q3 2024, while India facing businesses took up 6.6 million square feet or 35 per cent of the transacted volumes.

India's sustained eco-

nomical growth is driven by strong business performance, and the positive sentiment is clearly reflected in the strength of the office market.

"India-facing businesses and GCCs have continued

to expand operations, remaining the primary drivers of increased volumes.

We expect this trend to continue for the rest of the year, with the possibility of office leasing numbers crossing 70 million square feet by the end of 2024, a 20 per cent growth over the previous high," said Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India.

The strong demand in office market reflects the confidence of businesses focused on the Indian economy amid ongoing growth while the increased interest from GCCs highlights global enterprises' high commitment to the

Indian business environment.

Bengaluru office market recorded the highest volume of transactions at 5.3 million square feet and constituted 28 per cent of the office volume transactions across eight cities in the country.

India facing businesses, which have traditionally anchored the market, accounted for 35 per cent of the transacted volumes in Q3.

Flex space operators accounted for 16 per cent of the total transacted volume. Volumes taken up by third-party IT services have trended up well in 2024, said the report.

SEBI's new measures could halve trading volumes in F&O segment

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) new measures to curb derivatives trading could halve volumes in the futures and options (F&O) segment, according to a media report.

Media report citing sources said that volumes could drop by as much as 50 per cent after new measures take effect. They expect around 50 to 60 per cent of traders to exit the F&O segment due to higher contract sizes.

Sources further said, "If there is no change in the volume of the derivatives market after the implementation of the new rules, then SEBI can take further action."

"Due to SEBI's action, the average trade size of futures and options may increase to Rs 20,000 in FY 2025, which is currently Rs 5,500," the report stated.

SEBI tightened the F&O segment rules on Tuesday.

Under the F&O measures, the market regulator has increased the minimum contract size in the index derivatives to Rs 15 lakh

from the current Rs 5 lakh.

The market regulator has also reduced the weekly index expiry count to one per exchange. This means that exchanges can only offer one expiry in a week on one benchmark index. The market regulator has taken this step due to heavy losses incurred by retail investors in the F&O segment. Recently a study was released by the market regulator. It was reported that in the last three years, 1.10 crore traders in the F&O segment have suffered a combined loss of Rs 1.81 lakh crore.

Job demand for tech roles in India to grow by 22 pc in next 2 years

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

Job demand for technology-specific roles in India has grown by 17 per cent in the past 12 months, and is projected to increase by 22 per cent over the next 24 months, according to a report on Thursday.

This marks a 39 per cent positive transition in the IT talent ecosystem post the economic slowdown, according to NLB Services, a global technology and

digital talent solutions provider. The global capability centre (GCC)-led hiring in India is expected to surge by 15 per cent year-on-year over the next three years, the report said.

As companies increasingly adopt technology-enabled roles driven by the rise of fields like AI and machine learning, the demand for specialised talent is shifting.

"Despite a muted hiring environment in the IT sector over the past few

years, certain technology roles have witnessed a consistent surge. This demand is fuelled by India's focus on Industry 4.0, local manufacturing, AI adoption, and post-pandemic digital transformation," said Sachin Alug, CEO, NLB Services.

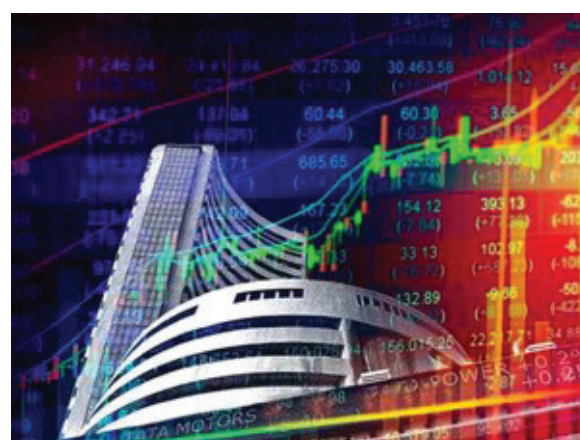
In-demand roles this year include IT security specialists, salesforce developers, site reliability engineers, cloud engineers, data analysts and machine learning engineers.

Indian equity capital markets raise record \$49.2 bn in Jan-Sep period, IPOs jump 63 pc

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, OCT 3

The India equity capital markets hit a record high and raised \$49.2 billion in the first nine months this year (January-September period) -- a massive 115 per cent growth compared to a year ago -- surpassing the annual record set in 2020 by proceeds, a report showed on Thursday.

The number of equity capital market offerings also saw a 61 per cent increase year-on-year, according to the report by LSEG, a global financial



markets infrastructure and data provider.

Initial public offerings

the same period last year, making it the highest first nine-month total since 2021.

Number of IPOs jumped an impressive 63 per cent YoY. Follow-on offerings, which accounted for 81 per cent of India's overall equity capital market proceeds, raised \$39.9 billion, up 119 per cent from a year ago, while number of follow-on offerings grew 59 per cent YoY, the report mentioned.

The flurry of activity is expected to continue, with a robust pipeline of IPOs lining up such as Swiggy,

Hyundai Motors and LG Electronics planning to list their Indian units.

The equity capital market issuance from India's industrials sector accounted for majority of the nation's equity capital market activity, with 23 per cent market share worth \$11.3 billion in proceeds -- a 137 per cent increase from a year ago.

According to the report, financials captured 15.1 per cent market share as proceeds grew 78.8 per cent compared to the first nine months of 2023.

Fifth and final round of National Motorcycle Racing Championship to begin on Friday

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, OCT 3

Over 100 entrants, representing 19 teams, will vie for top honours across 19 races when the fifth and final round of the three-day MMSI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2024 will be held at the Madras International Circuit starting from Friday.

The three-day event will witness the formal coronation of National Champions in the five categories - Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open, Pro-Stock 165cc Open, Novice (Stock 165cc), Girls (Stock 165cc) and Stock 301-400cc Novice. A maximum of 52 points are on offer.

It will be no different in the Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup and the TVS India One-Make Championship which have attracted a clutch of hand-picked talented riders who have greatly benefitted from focused training and nurturing by the country's two top two-wheeler man-



ufacturers.

The 2024 season which had a traditional start in June will be long remembered for the emergence of a new generation of talented and fearless riders who have taken the baton from their peers, thus ushering a new era in motorcycle racing in the country.

Undoubtedly, much of the attention has been on Pune's Sarthak Chavan, who turns 18 at the end of this month, and 17-year-old Chiranth Vishwanath from Bengaluru.

The pair was recruited by the TVS Racing team last season and since then,

their performance graph has gone northwards.

Unfazed by grids containing multiple National champions and seasoned campaigners, Sarthak and Chiranth have scripted their own success stories marked by fierce, and at times unbridled, competition between themselves to excel in the two premier Pro-Stock categories.

Sarthak, having won seven of the eight races so far, needs only a handful of points in the final round to take the title in the Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open class. Further, Sarthak and Chiranth, are very much in the title hunt in the Pro-

Stock 165cc Open where 10 times National champion and team-mate Jagan Kumar, probably in his swansong season, heads the leaderboard, with two wins and five podium finishes.

Another 17-year-old, Abdul Basim from Chennai in the Rockers Racing team livery, enjoys an insurmountable lead in the Novice (Stock 165cc) class, courtesy of seven wins in eight starts.

In contrast, Basim's teammate Ryhana Bee, with three wins over two previous rounds, after switching teams, has given herself a chance to regain the title, though she has much work to do. Ryhana and her main rivals, Chennai school girl Rakshitha Dave (RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate) and Jagathishree Kumaresan (One Racing) are separated by just four points going into the final round.

The title race in the Novice (Stock 301-400cc) class appears to be a straight fight between leader Kaushik Subbiah

Ganesan (RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate) and Raj Kumar (RDX Torque Racing).

Mohsin Paramban, the 22-year-old from Malappuram, has effectively sealed the championship in the NSF 250R class with five wins as he leads Bengaluru's Prakash Kamath by 56 points.

Coimbatore's Senthikumar is involved in a three-cornered title fight in the Open (Apache RR310) class with two Chennai riders, Manoj Yesuadiyan and Jayanth P. while Bengaluru's 22-year-old Harshith V. Bogar has one hand on the trophy in the Rookie category (Apache RTR 200). In the Girls segment (Apache RTR 200), Pune's Saimah Ajaz Baig and S.P. Shuria from Trichy are locked in a close battle for the title.

Sarthak Chavan is also in line for the title in the TVS Electric RTE Open, following an unbeaten run, and needs only a couple of points from the lone race in the final round to bag the crown.

A game-changer: Savita Punia lauds gender equality Hockey India League

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

Indian women's hockey goalkeeper and former captain Savita Punia has lauded Hockey India's commitment to gender equality overall and in the upcoming Hockey India League (HIL) 2024-25.

For the first time in the history of the HIL, the tournament will feature not only men's teams but the women's teams as well, with both categories receiving equal prominence.

The HIL 2024-25 will be held from the last week of December 2024 to the first week of February 2025, in a window sanctioned by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). The tournament will witness the participation of 8 men's teams and 6 women's teams. Notably, the men's and women's HIL will run simultaneously, marking a unique moment in global sports leagues.

Savita expressed her admiration for this initiative, stating, "The men's and women's HIL will run



simultaneously, which is something that I don't think has happened before in any other sports. Hockey India has always ensured that both men's and women's teams are treated equally.

For instance, when the men's and women's teams win matches or a competition at the international level, the prize money is the same for both. This speaks volumes about Hockey India's dedication to promoting gender equality in sports. As a player, it feels empowering to be part of an organisation that values the contributions of women athletes just as much as

their male counterparts." Hockey India has long been committed to maintaining parity between the men's and women's national teams. Whether in terms of facilities, international exposure, or match rewards, both teams enjoy equal support.

This includes providing the same financial incentives for winning international matches and equal prize money for securing trophies at international events.

Savita further highlighted the impact of the women's HIL in nurturing emerging talent and said, "The introduction of a dedicated women's league is a game changer and certainly a huge step forward for Indian hockey. For young women athletes, this platform will not only allow them to compete at a high level but also improve as players. It's a great opportunity to showcase their talent and climb up the ranks, and I believe we'll see some exceptional performances in the coming season."

Shubhankar Sharma, Anirban Lahiri are India's best golfers, says Lakshman Singh

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

Former Asian Games gold medallist golfer 'Bunny' Lakshman Singh termed India's top-ranked player Shubhankar Sharma, and experienced Anirban Lahiri as the country's best golfers of the current generation. Lakshman is also hopeful of the country's potential to produce "some good golfers in the next two to three years".

Lakshman, who is currently playing in the fourth edition of the Delhi Golf Club League (DGCL) with Sterling Swingers, remains optimistic about India's chances of winning an Olympic medal in golf. In the Paris Olympics, Shubhankar finished at T40 to achieve the country's best performance in the sport in the mega event. He surpassed Anirban's previous best finish of T42 at the Tokyo Olympics.

"I can't say too much about that but that's a very high level (Olympics). Yes, we do have really good golfers coming up. We got Shubhankar Sharma, we got Anirban Lahiri and these two are probably our best international golfers.

There are some youngsters also coming through. The next Olympics is four years away, who knows there could be a breakthrough. Young Veer Ahla-



wat is also playing superb golf. So, let's hope (for the best)," Lakshman told IANS on Thursday.

When asked about his experience of the tournament and playing for the first time in the DGCL, he said, "This is the first year I'm playing in the DGCL and I'm playing for Sterling Swingers, Atul Agarwal is the owner and Anshul Chawla is the captain. I was invited to play and I accepted to play. This league is a wonderful way for the Delhi Golf Club, we have more than 20 teams participating with 19 players each.

"There is a lot of camaraderie together, here is a big mix of players and a lot of enthusiasm. This is not the only league in the country. It was first started by the Royal Calcutta Golf Club about nine years ago. Since then, there have

been nine such leagues across the country. This is more for the average and club golfers but there is a lot of enthusiasm which is good," he said.

"I'm enjoying it. My golf is not so good presently," he added on his performance in the tournament.

Lakshman also emphasised the importance of such leagues in creating a platform for youngsters.

"The leagues like these are the first platform to get to a certain level.

In golf, you have to be competitive. When you play in the big tournament it is open for all categories. So, it's an experience and you have to play well to beat your opponent," he said.

"I won't say too much about (this league) contributing to excellence but it certainly brings a

lot of awareness to the game which is good. A lot of youngsters are also joining the league and every team has one or two really good players; so there's a big experience for them also.

The more you play, the more exposure you get, which is good," the Arjuna Award recipient added.

However, Lakshman is happy with the way golf is gaining popularity in the country and sees a bright future for youngsters like Veer Ahlawat and Karandeep Kochhar.

"I certainly see a lot of activity but golf needs a lot of effort and if the individual is not ready to put the effort in, he will be a good golfer but he will never be the best.

There are only one or two, who made that effort like Anirban Lahiri, Shubhankar Sharma and Veer Ahlawat is the one. Shiv Kapoor is the one but he is now a senior golfer. Karandeep Kochhar is coming up. I hope the country produces some good golfers in the next two to three years," he said.

"My only advice to youngsters today is that if you do pick up the game, it's a wonderful sport and you got to give it some time and hard work. There is no substitute for hard work," he concluded.

Embattled IOA chief PT Usha opens up new front; calls Special General Meeting on Oct 25

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

A week after the Executive Committee thwarted her attempts to get the appointment of CEO Raghuram Iyer ratified, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha has convened a Special General Meeting (SGM) of the body on October 25 to address the various contentious issues that have stalled the working of the organisation.

The IOA chief has embroiled in a controversy recently when 12 EC members, which include Olympic medallists like Gagan Narang and Yogeshwar Dutt, Sehdev Yadav, etc., wrote a letter to senior IOC official Jerome Poivey accusing the legendary athlete of running the organisation in an "autocratic" manner.

Most of the EC members have questioned the appointment of Iyer as IOA Chief Executive Officer in January 2024, calling it a unilateral decision by the President and have refused to ratify it.

On the other hand, Usha has slammed the committee members for not felicitating the Paris Olympics medallist.

The Specific Agenda of the SGM includes the Show Cause Notice dated 10.9.2024 issued to IOA



Treasurer Sahdev Yadav for filing false information with the IOA for the benefit of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWL) to write off Rs 1.75 crore of the loan amount due to the IOA and if any disciplinary action is to be taken against him. Sahdev Yadav is an office-bearer of the weightlifting federation. The issue of the complaint dated 6.9.2024 received against the IOA treasurer regarding his alleged ineligibility to contest for the IOA election and if any decision or action is required to be taken for the same will also be discussed in the SGM.

The issue of the appointment of the CEO, who has been selected by the Nomination Committee of the IOA, will also be on the table during the AGM.

The Specific Agenda points of the SGM are;

1) To discuss the issue of loans to the tune of Rs 1.75 crore given to the

Indian Weightlifting Federation for paying the doping fines of the IWL. The monies owed by the IWL is public money and is to be used for the development of the IOA and its members. In this context, to vote on whether:

(a) the same should be recovered from the IWL along with interest as recommended by the previous Finance Committee in its minutes dated 18.4.2022 and the Controller Auditor General of India (CAG) in a letter dated 17.9.2024

or (b) The amount should be written off as per the decision of the new Finance Committee and the IWL shall not be required to refund INR 1.75 crore as loan to the IOA.

2) To discuss the issue of the complaint dated 6.9.2024 received against Bhupinder Singh Bajwa regarding his alleged ineligibility to contest for the IOA election and if

any decision or action is required to be taken for the same.

3) To discuss the issue of the complaint dated 6.9.2024 received against Mrs. Rajalakshmi Singh Deo regarding her alleged ineligibility to contest for the IOA election and if any decision or action is required to be taken for the same.

4) To discuss the issue of the complaint dated 6.9.2024 received against Mrs. Alaknanda Ashok regarding her alleged ineligibility to contest for the IOA election and if any decision or action is required to be taken for the same.

5) To discuss the issue of the complaint dated 6.9.2024 received against Mr. Ajay Patel regarding his alleged ineligibility to contest for the IOA election and if any decision or action is required to be taken for the same.

6) To Discuss the Show Cause Notice dated 10.9.2024 issued to the Chairman and members of the Ad Hoc Committee of Volleyball for unauthorised use of the IOA Pan Card for opening of a Bank Account of the Adhoc Committee of Volleyball and if any disciplinary action is to be taken against the members of the IOA Ad Hoc Committee of Volleyball.

Women's T20 WC: Rohit & team's WC win ignited our passion to triumph, says Jemimah

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 3

Apart from chasing their first-ever Women's T20 World Cup, India will also be striving to make a rare double of winning two silverware in the shortest format in both genders, an achievement which would be very unique in the cricketing world.

Right-handed batter Jemimah Rodrigues said the desire and passion to win the upcoming tournament was reignited in the team on seeing the Rohit Sharma-led side end a major trophy drought by winning Men's T20 World

Cup this year with a seven-run win over South Africa in the final at Barbados.

"I remember watching the men's final. We had a Test match against South Africa, and on Day 3, we stayed up until 12 or 1:30 in the night watching the match. I remember that moment clearly. We've always dreamt of winning the World Cup, but seeing them win just before our World Cup made it feel so much more real."

"That desire and passion to win was ignited when we saw Rohit Sharma and the team lifting the trophy. A few of us were in the room, and we're usually a talk-

ative bunch, especially me, but when that happened, we all fell silent."

"I knew everyone was thinking, 'When will our time come? How will it feel to see Harry Di lift the World Cup with us in the background?' I don't want to think too much about the result, honestly. The dream is there, but we're focusing more on the process and what we need to do. We'll let God take care of the result," said Jemimah to Star Sports.

Similar views were said by skipper Harmanpreet Kaur. "It would be very special. This year, the men's team won the World Cup,

and we all know how special that moment was for everyone. If we win, it will create a similar moment for Indian fans and for cricket history back home. I think it's going to be a very special achievement for us."

India opens its T20 World Cup campaign against New Zealand on October 4 in Dubai, followed by facing Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia in its Group A games. "It would be amazing. When the boys won, it gave us hope that we could replicate it. They won after so many years, and there was so much happiness across

the nation. We want to contribute to that happiness by winning our title too," says pacer Renuka Singh Thakur.

"Yes, the men's team winning the World Cup was an emotional moment for the entire country. If we win too, then it will be two World Cups in a year, which is a big thing for both us and the nation. It will be like a festival for everyone," added opener Shafali Verma.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana thinks following the process would be the key for India to win the title in the final at Dubai International Stadium on October 20.

Shanghai Masters: Berrettini edges past O'Connell in second round of ATP Masters 1000 event

AGENCIES
SHANGHAI, OCT 3

Italian tennis star Matteo Berrettini edged past Australian Christopher O'Connell in a gripping second-round match at Shanghai Masters, here on Thursday. Berrettini clinched the match 7-6(9), 7-6(6), marking his first win of the season at the ATP Masters 1000 level. In a contest that lasted just over two hours, Berrettini fired 33 winners, including 11 aces. After withdrawing from the Tokyo second round due to an abdominal injury, the World No. 45 had been battling both physical setbacks and the mental toll of constant injuries.



"I'm happy to be back here and healthy," Berrettini said after the match. "Too often I have been thinking about how to be healthy, and it's something I've grown a bit tired of. One of the goals of the match was not to think about my condition, just to enjoy the match, enjoy the atmosphere, which I

did." The two-set tiebreaker battle saw Berrettini fend off two set points in the first-set tie-break. O'Connell ranked No. 71 in the world, pushed the Italian hard, but Berrettini's experience and composure in the clutch moments made the difference.

UPHC Lal Bazar & UPHC Batamaloo of Srinagar District awarded Quality Certification under National Quality Assurance Standards

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 3

In recognition of the high standards of quality and performance maintained by the two Health Institutions of Srinagar District, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has awarded Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) Lal Bazar and UPHC Batamaloo with the National Quality Assurance Standard (NQAS) Certification.

The parameters for the award included 24/7 mandatory service accessibility, availability of curative, preventive, and diagnostic services, implementation of safety measures in primary care facilities, hospital infection control, cleanliness and hygiene, safe and respectful maternity care, infra-



structure and equipment availability, initiatives to reduce Maternal and Neonatal Mortality Rates, and increased patient satisfaction.

The UPHC Lal Bazar underwent National

Level External Assessment between 11 September to 12 September, 2024 in all 12 departments and got 93.56 percent overall score.

Similarly, UPHC Batamaloo underwent exter-

nal assessment on 13 September and 14 September, 2024 and obtained an overall score of 92.91 percent.

Speaking about the achievement, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat said that the sincere efforts and hard work put in by our dedicated staff of UPHCs of Lal Bazar and Batamaloo have been recognised.

The DC congratulated the CMO Srinagar and staff members of both the health facilities. He urged them to work with added zeal and dedication and treat patients in a compassionate way.

DC said this award has brought along more responsibilities on their shoulders to uphold high-quality standards at the health Institutions.

Assembly Election-2024

Nodal Officer MCMC Rajouri chairs meeting with Media Persons to discuss Setup of Media Centre for Vote Counting

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 03

On the directions of District Election Officer (DEO) Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, the Nodal Officer for Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC), Ashiq Rafiq Malik, chaired a meeting with the media persons of District Rajouri.

The meeting focused on finalizing the arrangements for setting up a Media Centre on the day of vote counting, scheduled for 8 October 2024.

The primary objective of the Media Centre is to provide a central location for the dissemination of real-time election results, updates and official announcements to the press and public.

Ashiq Rafiq Malik highlighted the significance of efficient media operations



during the vote counting process and emphasized that the Media Centre will ensure timely and accurate information reaches the public.

He also reiterated the role of the media in maintaining the transparency

of the counting process. Additionally, the Nodal Officer stressed the need for spreading positive feedback through media channels during and after the counting process. He pointed out that highlighting the success stories

from polling stations and the smooth counting process would encourage trust and participation in future elections. During the meeting, the District Information Officer (DIO), Rajouri, also sought suggestions from the media persons to enhance the operations of the Media Centre. He encouraged the journalists to share their insights on how to further improve the flow of communication and coordination between the election authorities and the press.

Media persons raised constructive suggestions related to real-time access to data, quick updates on the counting process and the availability of technical support at the Media Centre.

'ICOLSI-46': Languages crucial in retaining, reclaiming peoples' shared identities: KU VC

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 3

To exchange ideas and perspectives reinforcing the importance of linguistics in today's technology-driven, interconnected world, the Department of Linguistics, University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the Linguistic Society of India, Pune and Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru, Thursday inaugurated the 46th International Conference of the Linguistic Society of India (ICOLSI-46) here.

Themed 'Linguistics in 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities', the conference runs through October 5 and is being attended by scholars and linguists from around the globe to discuss advancements in the field of linguistics.

On the occasion, KU



Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan, highlighted the challenges being faced in preserving and promoting the linguistic diversity of the country, reiterating that languages play a crucial role in retaining and reclaiming the shared identities of people and communities.

"Numerous languages are on the verge of extinction that is an immediate threat to peoples' identities. Once we lose a language, we lose our identity," she said, adding that

the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, however, ensures that languages receive due attention in promoting our shared cultural and linguistic legacy.

She said technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) can facilitate further development of languages that in turn will contribute towards their preservation and promotion.

"I urge the youth to speak their mother tongue (Kashmiri) and remain

rooted to their cultural and linguistic legacies," she said.

Vice Chancellor, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj University, Navi Mumbai, Prof Keshari Lal Verma, stated that no language is big or small, it is but language that gives identity to people and nations.

Underlining the scenario of languages and their role in education in India, he said: "The Indian knowledge system will grow and make a mark globally only when linguists collaborate and work towards their (languages)' preservation and promotion."

President, Linguistic Society of India (LSI) and professor at Aligarh Muslim University, Prof Mohammad Jahangir Warsi, explored the critical intersection of language, technology and society.

Ramban administration holds training for Counting Supervisors, Assistants, Micro-Observers



JINNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, OCTOBER 3

The District Administration Ramban conducted training for Counting Supervisors, Counting Assistants and Micro-Observers whose services will be utilized for counting of votes in Ramban scheduled on October 8.

Under the directions of District Election Officer Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, the training was conducted at Conference Hall under the supervision of Returning Officer AC-54 Ramban Harpal

Singh and Returning Officer AC-55 Banihal Rizwan Asgar where Master Trainers carried out exhaustive training sessions to prepare skilled manpower for the counting of votes for two Assembly Constituencies of district Ramban.

During the sessions, the participating employees were taken through sensory training particularly on safety measures to be taken during the process of counting of votes. In addition to this, they were also trained how to handle emergencies to address issues of security and privacy.

Assembly Elections-2024 DEO Reasi oversees training for Counting Supervisors, counting Assistants, Micro-Observers



JINNEWS SERVICE
REASI, OCTOBER 3

A comprehensive training session was held under the supervision of District Election Officer Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan at the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex for Counting Supervisors, Counting Assistants and Micro-Observers whose services will be utilized for vote counting in District Reasi, scheduled for October 8.

During the training, DEO instructed the officials to maintain profes-

sional conduct to make the whole process smooth and transparent. Master Trainers led thorough sessions aimed at preparing skilled personnel for counting votes in three Assembly Constituencies of District Reasi.

The employees were also given instructions on managing and handling polling machinery for transparent counting of votes. The participants received detailed instructions on safety protocols to be followed during the vote counting process.

DLSA Srinagar observes 'International Day of Older Persons'

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 3

On the occasion of International Day of Older Persons, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar Thursday organized a program at Ahata-e-Waqar Chanapora, (Day Care and Recreational Centre for Senior Citizens).

The event was held under the guidance of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman DLSA/Pr. District and Sessions Judge Srinagar, and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, to educate them about their rights and empower them to claim their due.

The programme was attended by the chief guest, Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman DLSA/Pr. District and Sessions Judge Srinagar, guest of honor, Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, Abdul Ganie Parray, Chairman of the Senior Citizens Council, Members of Ahata-e-Waqar, Senior Citizens, officials of DLSA Srinagar, Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel, panel lawyers, and para-legal volunteers.

The resource persons delivered insightful speech



emphasizing the legal rights of senior citizens, underscoring the importance of safeguarding their well-being and ensuring their dignity. Other Members of the Ahata-e-waqar also spoke on the occasion.

In his address, the Principal District and Sessions Judge emphasized the critical role of upholding the rights of senior citizens, advocating for their

proper care, and ensuring their safety and security. He reiterated the legal framework protecting their interests and urged participants to actively claim their rights.

Secretary of DLSA Srinagar underscored the importance of fostering a society that respects and values its elders, stressing the need for inclusivity and equitable access to resources and services.

DC Poonch visits Child Care Institute for Girls in Mangnar, emphasizes Skill Development, Quality Services

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, OCTOBER 3

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today visited the Child Care Institute for Girls, "Pareesha," as part of a comprehensive initiative to assess the conditions of child care institutions.

The institute currently houses 38 girls and the visit aimed at ensuring their overall well-being while improving the quality of services provided to them.

Kundal undertook a detailed tour of the institute, inspecting every corner to ensure the facilities met the required standards. He conducted a thorough review of the food roster, checked nutritional standards and ensured the kitchen maintained strict hygiene protocols. On-spot instructions were issued to the District Social Welfare Officer, Poonch, for immediate improvements in both the quality of food and educational resources provided to the inmates.

During his visit, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of skill develop-



ment and sports activities in promoting the holistic development of the girls. He engaged with the children, who interacted enthusiastically, sharing their concerns, aspirations and needs.

The girls specifically requested Wi-Fi access to support their studies and the DC assured them of his full support, promising to address the request promptly.

Deputy Commissioner also interacted with the

institute's staff, discussing the quality of education and other support services. He stressed the need for continuous improvement in the educational environment, ensuring the girls receive the best possible opportunities for growth and learning.

Accompanying the Deputy Commissioner were District Social Welfare Officer, Wakeel Bhat and District Tax Officer, Qurat Ul Ain, along with other senior officials.

IUST Concludes Swachhata Hi Seva Abhiyan" with felicitation of sanitation workers



JINNEWS SERVICE
AWANTIPORA, OCT 2

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) concluded its two-week "Swachhata Hi Seva Abhiyan" campaign today. The closing ceremony, coordinated by NSS Coordinator Dr. Tariq Ahmad Ganaie, was attended by Registrar Prof. Abdul Wahid, Deputy Registrar S. Iqbal Qureshi, Proctor Dr. Sheikh Jameel, staff and

NSS volunteers. Prof. Abdul Wahid, in his address, emphasized the importance of cleanliness in fostering a healthy society and commended the NSS volunteers for their efforts. Dr. Ganaie highlighted the campaign's activities, which included campus clean-up drives and awareness programs. The event concluded with a pledge to continue efforts towards cleanliness in both public and private spaces.