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**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:  
 • Increase in body temperature  
 • Persistent vomiting  
 • A sharp rise in temperature  
 • Dizziness  
 • Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool  
 • Redness in eyes  
 If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY.

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## J&K Assembly Polls

### Three-Tier security arrangements in place at counting centres

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 6

Stringent security arrangements have been put in place at all district headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir for the counting of votes on Tuesday for the 90-member assembly, paving way for first elected Government in the Union Territory following the abrogation of Article 370 five years ago.

A three-tier security set up has been put in place at all the 20 counting centres across Jammu and Kash-



mir where the votes will be counted on Tuesday, said an official of the Election Commission.

The first assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir since 2014 was held over three phases with 24

seats going to polls in the first phase on September 18. The second phase of polling was held on September 18 in which 26 seats went to polls while the polling for remaining 40 seats was held on October 1.

"Only authorized counting agents of the contesting candidates and staff posted on counting duty will be allowed inside the counting halls," the official said.

He said the tally of votes for each candidate will CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## J&K Assembly Elections: Fate of 873 candidates to be announced on Tuesday

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 6

The political future of 873 candidates contesting for the 90-member Jammu and Kashmir Assembly seats will be announced on Tuesday when the counting of votes will be held at 20 voting centres.

This election is pivotal, as it will determine the first elected government in J&K since the abrogation of Article 370 five years ago.

With a three-tier security setup in place, access to counting halls will be restricted to authorized

personnel, including counting agents and staff on official duty. "Strict security protocols have been established at all counting centers," Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) PK Pole told news agency.

Votes will be counted in rounds, with results for each candidate being publicly announced outside the counting centers. The three-phase election, held over September and October, recorded a voter turnout of 63.45%, slightly lower than the 65.52% turnout in the 2014 assembly elections.

Several high-profile candidates are in the running, including National Conference leader Omar Abdullah, contesting from Budgam and Ganderbal, and Sajad Gani Lone of the People's Conference, vying for the Handwara and Kupwara seats. Congress leader Tariq Hamid Karra, contesting from Batamaloo, and BJP state president Ravindra Raina, running in Nowshera, are also among the prominent names.

Other notable contestants include AICC general secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir (Dooru),

PDP leaders Waheed Para (Pulwama) and Iltija Mufti (Bijbehara), Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari (Chanapora), CPI(M) veteran Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami (Kulgam), and former deputy chief ministers Muzaffar Hussain Baig and Tara Chand.

This election, the first since Jammu and Kashmir's reorganization as a Union Territory, is expected to have a significant impact on the region's political future. The results are anticipated to mark a critical turning point in the governance of the region.

## Kashmir higher reaches receive snowfall, rains lash plains



JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 6

Higher reaches of Kashmir valley, including Gulmarg and Sonamarg, received snowfall while plains were lashed by rains, resulting in a drop in temperature on Sunday, officials said.

Higher reaches of Kashmir valley, including the mountainous range of

Affarwat in Ski resort of Gulmarg, the tourist destination of Sonamarg, Sinthan Top, Razdan Top, and Pir Panjal Range, received light snowfall during the intervening nights of Saturday and Sunday, resulting in a drop in the temperature, they said. The tourists were overjoyed to see snowfall over the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Exit polls say advantage to NC-Cong in J&K; Omar calls it 'time-pass', BJP remains hopeful of win



JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU/SRINAGAR, OCT 5

Most of the exit polls predicted that the Congress-NC alliance has an advantage in the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir but the BJP remained hopeful of forming the government in the Union territory.

National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah, however, described the exit polls as "just time pass" even though the results are in favour of his party.

"I'm amazed channels are bothering with exit polls especially after the fiasco of the recent general elections. I'm ignoring all the noise on channels, social media, WhatsApp etc. because the only numbers that matter will be revealed on the 8th of Oct. The rest is just time pass," Abdullah, a former chief minister, wrote on X.

Several exit polls gave an edge to the NC-Congress alliance and CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

"Will form govt in both Haryana, J&K": BJP's Tarun Chugh on upcoming Assembly Elections Results

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 6

Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) national General Secretary Tarun Chugh asserted on Sunday that his party will form the government in both Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir in the recently concluded Assembly elections, adding that BJP will get the blessings of the people.

Speaking to news agency on exit poll projections, Chugh said "BJP will form the government with full majority in both the places (Jammu-Kashmir and

"This is a great thing..": Farooq Abdullah on PDP hinting at joining Cong-NC alliance

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 6

Excluding confidence that the Congress-NC alliance would be coming to power in Jammu and Kashmir with a "majority," National Conference President Farooq Abdullah on Sunday said that it is a "great thing" that People's Democratic Party (PDP) is ready to join them.

When asked about the PDP leader's remarks that the party is ready to join the Congress-NC alliance to keep BJP out of power, he said, "Congratulations to them, this is a great thing, we are all on the same track, nafrat

## NIA arrests alleged terror operative during Pan-India searches, questions suspects radicalising youth

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 5

In a massive pan-India crackdown against terrorists' outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), the NIA on Saturday conducted searches at 26 locations in five states and arrested one person and questioned several suspects involved in motivating youth into committing violent terror attacks across the country, according to an official statement.

Sheikh Sultan Salah Uddin Ayubi alias Ayubi was taken into custody

after searches at 26 locations in Assam, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, it said.

The accused was arrested on account of his incriminatory role in the conspiracy case, said the statement issued by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

He will be produced before the NIA special court, Patiala House, New Delhi, it added.

In addition, "several other suspects" have also been rounded up for questioning, the NIA said.

The suspects were engaged in radicalising individuals associated with Pakistan-based JeM and were engaged in disseminating terrorist related propaganda, and "radicalising and recruiting youth into the Jamaat outfit" inspired by it, it said.

These suspects were involved in motivating the youth into committing violent terror attacks across India, the NIA investigations have revealed, according to the statement.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## "No need to think about India's foreign policy": Kavinder on Mirwaiz Farooq Statement

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Former Deputy Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and BJP leader Kavinder Gupta on Sunday advised chairperson of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Umar Farooq to refrain from commenting on India's foreign policy, emphasizing that the government is capable of handling its relations with Pakistan.

Gupta's statement comes after Mirwaiz expressed hope that



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's upcoming visit to Pakistan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting would lead CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

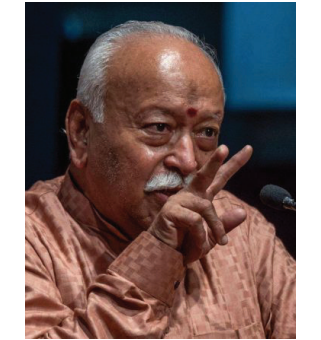
## Hindu society must unite for its security: Mohan Bhagwat

AGENCIES  
KOTA, OCT 6

Asserting that India is a Hindu nation, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has said the Hindu society must unite for its security by eliminating differences in language, caste and regional disputes.

He also underlined that the functioning of the RSS is not mechanical but idea-based.

Addressing a 'Swamasevak Ekatrikaran' event in Rajasthan's Baran on Saturday evening, Bhagwat said the Hindus consider everyone as their own and embrace everyone. "We have lived



here since ancient times even though the term Hindu came later. Hindus embrace everyone. They live in harmony through continuous dialogue," he said.

The Rashtriya Swamasevak Sangh (RSS) CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Removal of women elected representative can't be treated lightly: Supreme Court

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 6

Removal of an elected public representative should not be treated lightly, especially when it concerns women belonging to rural areas, the Supreme Court has said as it set aside an order for removal of a woman sarpanch in a Maharashtra village.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan termed the matter as a classic case where the residents of the village could not reconcile with the fact that a woman was elected to the office of the



sarpanch. The top court observed that it was a case where villagers were unable to come to terms with the reality that a female sarpanch would make deci-

sions on their behalf and that they would have to abide by her directions. "This scenario gets further exacerbated when we as a country are attempting to realise the progres-

sive goal of gender parity and women empowerment across all spheres, including public offices and most importantly adequate women representative in elected bodies, such instances at the grass-root level cast a heavy shadow on any headway that we may have achieved," the bench observed in its September 27 order.

Underscoring that it must be acknowledged that these women, who succeed in occupying such public offices, do so only after significant struggle, the bench said, "All that we would like CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Indian Army seizes huge cache of weapons, explosives in Poonch

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

The Indian Army's Romeo Force seized a huge cache of weapons and explosives in the Jhullas area of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Saturday.

According to the Army officials, a search was launched based on a tip-off and the weapons and explosives were recovered from a suspected terrorist bag.

The officials said that the recovered items included AK 47 and Pistol rounds of Pakistani origin and sophisticated explosives like RCIED, Timed



destruction IED, Stove IED, explosives for IED and Chinese Grenades.

"On October 5, based on reliable input, a CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Suspicious object found on Ring Road

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 5

Jammu and Kashmir Police today recovered a suspicious object, possibly an improvised explosive device (IED), from Ring Road near Gharota area.

Soon after receiving information, security forces along with Bomb Disposal squad reached at the scene.

"An area domination patrol by Police and Army on Ring Road Gharota found a suspicious object, possibly an explosive," said a police official.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4



## 'Mata Ki Kahani'- a must see show in Navratras appeals Balwant Thakur

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KATRA, OCT 6

Balwant Thakur-the conceptualizer, writer and director of 'Mata Ki Kahani' today made an appeal to everyone to come and witness the most vibrant musical theatre production ever produced in Jammu & Kashmir. Natrang Jammu is showcasing two shows of this most electrifying theatrical magic everyday at 3 pm and 6 pm at the Auditorium of Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra till the end of Navratras. This is the opportunity of a life-time which is not to be missed. A pilgrim from Gujrat after witnessing 'Mata Ki Kahani' said that this presentation is no less than any world class shows. At least in his life he has never seen a performance of this class. He recommended that all pilgrims coming to pay obeisance at the shrine must see 'Mata Ki Kahani' as it will not only educate them but they will also be exposed to the true narrative of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi. History has perhaps never witnessed a production of this class at Katra which unfolds the entire legend in a highly spectacular manner. Balwant Thakur who is credited for having created theatrical wonders of world class once again established the fact that his magic spell will continue to mesmerize audiences through his mind-blowing ventures. 'Mata Ki Kahani'



- a unique theatrical experience for the audience, beautifully showcased the popular legend of Mata Vaishno Devi. Magically it transported the entire audience to a mesmerising journey unfolding the story of Mata Vaishno Devi which 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. Today Mata Vaishno Devi is worshipped by millions and trillions of people across the world. Mata Vaishno Devi has surfaced as an embodiment of will, strength and peace. In the present times, when the atrocities against the mankind is prevailing, the legend of Mata Vaishnodevi gives a guiding light to her followers to help her devotees to uphold

inner confidence and faith within themselves and on the strength of her healing and cosmic powers. The most striking feature of today's performance was the demonstration of perfection in every creative department be it the stage action, design, lighting, scenic imagery and visual poetry which left a life-time impact of a highly vibrant presentation. Pan-India audience on the occasion appreciated the performance and termed this as their lives best memorable presentation which they desired to continue for the entire year so over one Crore pilgrims visiting Katra every year get benefited by such educative showcasing of artistic presentations. Majority of the audiences admitted that they were not fully aware of the whole story of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and after having witnessed this mind-blowing presentation they have come to know about various aspects of the story. The artists who featured in this mega show includ-

ed Neeraj Kant, Brijesh Avtar Sharma, Palshin Dutta, Kananpreet Kaur, Sana Chouhan, Kushal Bhat, Vishal Sharma, Kavya Sharma, Aradhya Sharma, Pihu Mehra, Aanya Sharma, Ayushi Nagotra, Anvi Thakur, Aayna Thakur, Sania Bhagat, Sonam Thakur, Jeevika Thakur, Vrinda Gujrallsha Gupta, Mehak Chib, Aradhana Soodan, Divyanshi Sharma, Mehak Singh, Suneha Angural, Sakshi Gupta, Priyal Ashok Gupta, Pratibha Verma, Mahi Verma, Simran Bhagat, Prerna Sharma, Simran Rajput, Ritika, Janvi Bilorla, Harmandeep Kour, Arun Dev Verma, Sahil Narwalia, Arun Sharma, Lalita Devi, Shalini Bhagat, Kartik Kumar, Vansh Pandotra, Gopi Sharma, Sanket, Abhinav Sharma, Gourav Khajuria, Manik Sanmotra, Raghuvansh, Bhushan Kumar, Deepak Saini, Mridul and Sunny Mujoo. The sets of the play are designed by Veerji Sumbli and lights by Shivam Singh. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

## Special plantation drive launched in Jallo chak ward No 68 to increase green cover

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 5

Sr citezan Baba Milkhi Ram & Young Youth on sunday started a plantation drive at different locations of Jallo Chak ward No 68 to promote environmental resources. The event was inaugurated by Baba Milkhi, who was the chief guest on the occasion. The programme was organised by Baba Milkhi & Local youth to enhance the green cover and promote sustainability in the region. Anil Charak appealed to all the citizens of Jallo Chak ward No 68 to come forward and actively participate in the plantation drive to make the drive a great success. "Plants are the lifeline of people as they provide needed resistance to neutralise pollution having crossed the admissible limits, especially in urban sectors. Besides, planta-



tion of trees enhances the level of oxygen and provides fresh air which mitigates the impact of global warming, rain deficit and poor air quality," he said. Stressing on protecting nature, the adv Ravi Sharma appealed to the general public to come forward and plant at least five trees to improve greenery for a pollution-free atmo-

sphere. Speaking on the occasion, Naresh Charak @ Rishu said, "Trees are also the natural habitats for birds and several other creatures like honey bees etc. It is the need of the hour to double our efforts to intensify the drive for tree plantation on a war footing to tackle increasing pollution."

During the drive, a large number of saplings of different categories including ornamental, herbal, etc were planted in different parks as well as in vacant areas of the city. The plantation drive was attended by Sansar Chand Amir Chand Nepal Angurana Bjp Leader Usha Raj Put and others

## SPIC MACAY Organizes Heritage Walk in Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

SPIC MACAY's Jammu and Kashmir chapter today organized a heritage walk, aptly titled "Purane Jammu ke Mandiron Ki Kahani," aimed at showcasing the region's rich cultural heritage through its historic temples. The walk provided participants with a unique opportunity to explore the centuries-old traditions and architectural marvels of Jammu's ancient temples, offering deep insights into the Dogra community's heritage.



This initiative aligns perfectly with SPIC MACAY's mission to connect the younger generation to their cultural roots and the world's rich traditions. As many as 200 participants took part in the event, which began at Sardaron Ka Mandir, Panjtirthi. Enthusiastic students from Panjvakra Mahadev Ved Vidharthi Gurukul, Oriental Academy, GCW Parade, University of Jammu, Cluster University of Jammu, Central Sanskrit University, volunteers of Scouts and Guides, along with scholars, teachers, historians, and individuals from all walks of life joined the walk. The walk covered several ancient temples in Jammu city, including Radha Krishna Temple (Billu Mandir), Satyanarayan Temple, Gadadhar Mandir, Mahalaxmi Temple, Old Raja Maldev Mandir, Shri Ram Mandir, and Rani Bandralti Radha

Krishan Mandir, before concluding at Jammu's oldest temple, Panjvakra Mahadev Mandir. Each temple has its own unique history and significance, shedding light on the rich cultural legacy of the city. Shri Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd. Judge), Convener of SPIC MACAY's J&K unit, highlighted that this heritage walk was the first of many planned, alongside cultural and musical events. He emphasized, "Our primary goal is to engage the youth with the region's rich traditions, ensuring they remain connected to their cultural roots." Deepak Kumar, an eminent theatre personality closely associated with SPIC MACAY, of Panjvakra Mahadev Temple & Founder/Director of Rangyug, also shared valuable insights with the participants. He elaborated on the history of the temples, their architectural significance, and the cultural traditions associated with them. His engaging explanations deepened the participants' understanding

of the region's heritage, linking the present with the rich legacy of the past. Mukul Magotra, Curator of the Dogra Art Museum, and Ajay Khajuria, Professor of Practice at MIET, also contributed to the walk by offering additional context on the art, architecture, and cultural symbolism embedded in the region's temples. Their insights further enriched the experience for all attendees. At the culmination of the event at Panjvakra Mahadev Mandir, renowned classical singer Pankaj Pradhan performed a soulful bhajan, leaving participants in a spiritually uplifting atmosphere. His melodious rendition added a divine touch to the conclusion of the heritage walk. Expressing gratitude, Shri Suresh Kumar Sharma added, "Today's walk was a journey through Jammu's ancient temples, reconnecting us with our heritage. These temples are living symbols of our history, architecture, and spirituality. I thank all participants and volunteers for their enthusiasm in preserving our rich cultural heritage for future generations." During the walk, students were also informed about Comrade Dhanwantri, a freedom fighter from Jammu's Kali Jani area who played a key role in India's independence movement. His inspiring story was shared, and his home was shown to the participants, connecting to his legacy of patriotism. Students expressed deep appreciation after visiting the temples and vowed to uphold and cherish their cultural heritage. Members of civil society also participated, reflecting a shared commitment to preserving Jammu's heritage. Prominent participants included Deepak Sharma, Harmander Sharma, Rajinder Gupta, Jagmohan Gupta, Ravi Kant Khajuria, Raj Kumar Behrupia, Er. S. Amarjeet Singh, Dr. Vikas Padha, Prof. Sachin Gupta, Yogesh Sharma, Ashok Sharma, Ashish Sharma, Gourav Gupta, and Anil Gupta.

## Kesri strongly condemns Islamist attacks on Hindu minorities in Bangladesh

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri Sunday expressed his serious concern over incidents of violence against Hindus, Buddhists and other minority communities in Bangladesh during the recent movement for regime change urging Bangladesh's interim government to take strict action to stop such incidents. He said that cruelties such as targeted killings, looting, arson and heinous crimes against women belonging to the Hindu community and other religious minorities, as well as attacks against Hindu temples in Bangladesh, are intolerable. Kesri claimed that after ex-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled from Bangladesh on August 5, 2024, there has



been specific targeting of Hindus in Bangladesh, which includes widespread looting of Hindu houses and shops, vandalism of temples, lynching and killings of Hindu men, and abductions and rapes of Hindu women. There have also been reports of hospitals, including government facilities, refusing treatment to Hindu patients. These incidents of Islamic atrocities against Bangladeshi Hindus and other minorities deserve international condemna-

tion, said Kesri. Kesri with unwavering conviction, proclaiming said "We strongly condemn the assault on the Hindu community for their pluralistic beliefs. We stand united in unwavering solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Bangladesh. We demand immediate action from the Bangladeshi government to bring the perpetrators to justice and ensure the safety and security of all its citizens, regardless of their religious beliefs. The fre-

quent and targeted attacks are clearly a systematic effort to exterminate and uproot Hindu minorities whose population has witnessed a steep decline ever since the partition of Bharat, Kesri added. Attacks on minorities, irrespective of whether it is in the name of religion, caste, creed or privileges are highly condemnable, and it is the duty of the government to protect the rights, lives and properties of the minorities in the country, said Kesri.

## Appoint chairman, other members of 8th pay commission: NMC

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Subash Shastri, President of National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) today urged upon the Prime Minister to immediately appoint chairman and other members of the 8th Pay Commission. Addressing the NMC workers, Shastri said that notification for constitution of the 8th pay commission is the need of the hour, which is bound to have bearing on about one crore employees and pensioners, both in Central as well as State Governments. He said that commission should timely expedite the report so that the implementation gets executed well before 01-01-2026, due date for revision of



8th pay commission. "50 percent of DA should be forthwith merged into basic pay and pension", he said, adding, 20 percent interim relief should be sanctioned as early as possible in favour of the employees and pensioners, so that they would get sigh of relief of rising prices and inflation. He stressed the need to immediately restore old pension scheme in place of UPS as confi-

dence building measures as many states like Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Karnataka have restored old pension scheme in favour of UPC employees and hoped that the NDA Government at the Centre will take positive step in this regard. Shastri also appealed to Prime Minister to release 18 months pending DA arrears, beside regularization of daily wagers who have completed seven

years of service in March, 2024, adding their monthly emoluments should be raised to Rs. 18,000 per month, beside enhancing medical allowance Rs. 1000/- per month on the pattern of UT Ladakh and release of 4% DA due from July last in favour of both central as well as states Govt. Employees and pensioners so that they would get sigh of relief from rising prices of essential commodities. Among other who were also present during the meeting included Rajan Babu Khajuria, B.S Jamwal, Surinder Kumar, Ramesh Sharma, Chaman Lal, Birbal, Vinod Kumar, ex-Sarpanch Sukhdev Singh, Ram Singh, Subash Sharma and Ram Lal Sharma.

## Protest against price hikes and adulteration of festive staples in Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Activists of Dogra Front and Shiv Sena under the leadership of its president Ashok Gupta took out a protest rally here against the CAPD for the hiked prices of the flowers and adulteration in the fast-food staple of the festive season. Specially in Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of Eid the prices are fixed by the government of the items which are used during the Muslim festival which is welcome step as people are safeguarded from inflation. But on the contrary during the Navratri



season and Karwachauth the mostly used thing are the flowers which are now currently being sold at a price of Rs 200 per kg, the protestors rued. He further stated that the price fixed by the government of the Cheese is Rs 290 kg but in the

market adulterated milk products are being sold to the consumers as they are fasting during Navratras and have to buy them. "Special flour (Kuttu Ka Atta), which is the prime staple during the Navratri festival, is adulterated and full of sand particles.

The director Food & Supply is not doing anything and merely acting as an mute spectator. The party people who were present at the time of protest were Abhishek, Ashish, Bantu, Prem, Vinay, Devinder, Suresh, Amit and various others were present.



## Contractual system of appointments in Education Deptt marred career of thousands of educated youths: Rao

J1NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Strongly assailing the contractual system of appointment in Higher Secondary Schools in Education Department during the year 2019 when thousands of highly educated youth's opted for adjustments getting frustrated & dejected remaining unemployed & feeling themselves as a burden on the parents, an independent candidate from Jammu North-79 Assembly constituency, Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Rao, in a press statement issued here have termed it as a clear bankruptcy of mind of those at the helm of affairs responsible for framing contractual policy of employment of Hr. Secondary School Lecturers as also in Colleges as contractual Assistant Professors & worst of it the policy was abandoned when thousands of them attained upper age of limit prescribed by the government. Mr. Rao further expressed great surprise & dismay that has now again revived the policy remaining mum over those who attained upper age limit in the previous



spell to the annoyance thousands of affected families across J&K, thanks to the non-seriousness of the policy makers. He further observed that if the contractual policy is being revived keeping an eye on elections in 2024, then ruling dispensation is badly mistaken because first bleeding the wounds of thousands of needy & deserving families who have been rendered hopeless attaining upper age of limit terming the attempt as putting the cart a head of horse.

Rao further said that the promise of providing 2 crore jobs annually to the youths of the country in 2014 and 50,000 jobs to the youths of J&K after abrogation of Art. 370 still haunts the minds of young people here, which never saw the light of the day. Adding fuel to the fire, several thousands

of youths engaged on contractual basis, ad-hoc basis, daily wagers or need based arrangements in all departments be it Home guard, Education, PDD, PHE, Health, Food & civil supplies & so on so forth has compounded the miseries of frustrated youths with every passing day as scores of them are crossing age limit or nearing the same without any hope of ACHHE DIN, he maintained and said that previous leaders of successive state governments are squarely responsible for the present mess who, without any planning & application of mind, adjusted the youths simply to create vote banks & appease their kith & kins, has put thousands of youths in great dilemma & worst confusion, he claimed & maintained that Educational Institutions were opened with political considerations without proper infrastructure in place, Health Institutions sanctioned without availability of staff & Buildings. Rao further said that with the abrogation of Art. 370, the highly educated ignored & neglected unemployed youth, had pinned high hopes that really (Achhe Din) will come and concrete educational policy shall mitigate their suffering through proper absorption but unfortunately that did not happen even after waiting for about long 5 years' in the current dispensation and adhocism is still prevailing in practice. It is strongly felt that the most important Education sector is deliberately being ignored so as to keep the masses illiterate which could be easy to rule. It is appealed before the Lt. Governor Sh. Manoj Sinha / coming after 8th October, 2024, a new elected coalition government, to take cognizance of the deteriorating plight of highly educated un-employed youths & also student community across Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir due to non-availability of teaching staff and to take immediate necessary steps so that filling up of all vacant posts of Teachers in Schools & all the vacant posts in Govt. Degree colleges and Govt. Hr. Sec. Schools is taken up on fast track basis, and future of students is saved to some extent.

## 'LG admin urged to order enquiry to unveil sorry state of affairs in DDE'

J1NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

The former president of Jammu University Research Scholars Executive Association (JURSEA), Dr Vikas Sharma today made a startling disclosure regarding the state of affairs in Directorate of Distance Education (DDE) of University of Jammu (JU) stating that the courses being run there sans approval of Distance Education Bureau (DEB) of University Grants Commission (UGC).



Addressing a press conference, Dr Sharma alleged that the DDE had failed to obtain necessary approval from the UGC to run Post Graduate and Undergraduate under distance mode which has put on risk the career of thousands of students who are pursuing their courses from JU's DDE.

"The incumbent Director of DDE, Prof Pankaj Srivastava has miserably failed to fulfill his statutory obligations which led to a mess in the DDE. He along with his team of officers have failed to obtain mandatory approval from DEB to run distance mode ac-

ademic programs owing to which the careers of thousands of students pursuing their studies from the institution are at risk," he said.

He claimed that a committee was formed around one and half year ago to sort out the issues related to DEB approval but the incumbent Director got that committee abolished and didn't pursue the matter despite several communications from DEB. "As a result, the DDE has not been able to make fresh admissions for the current academic session. But, neither the Vice Chancellor nor the Director DDE are serious to tide over this crisis," he added.

Dr Sharma alleged that the DEB had also sought plagiarism reports related

to study material of various courses run by DDE and the incumbent Director failed to furnish the same. "The University has spent lakhs of rupees in printing the study material in advance without even furnishing the plagiarism report which means all that printed material stocked in DDE will be trashed and expenditure of lakhs of rupees will go waste," he explained.

He also highlighted that JU miserably failed to get approval to run Online Mode courses which was evident from the fact that it got approval only for two courses where University of Kashmir got eight courses in the list. "DDE Director Prof Pankaj Srivastava only went for two Online Courses i.e. MA

English and M.Com and that too owing to his personal interest whereas, he could have secured 7-8 courses and made something remarkable for the students of Jammu region. It is pathetic that only 5 students have got themselves enrolled for M.A English whereas M.Com has attracted zero. It means that these courses were not liked by students at all for online mode," he claimed.

Dr Sharma alleged that it was due to incompetence of the incumbent Vice Chancellor that affairs in DDE have got murkier and chaos was at its peak. "The Vice Chancellor is only worried about getting his term extended to enjoy the privileges of post whereas the career of hundreds of students pursuing their studies in JU has been compromised," he further said.

The former JURSEA president demanded from the LG administration to immediately order an enquiry into this whole fiasco and get the DEB approval at the earliest to restore the confidence of students back in the institution.

## Don't try to play with people's mandate: Shiv Sena Questions raised on the increase in voting percentage

J1NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has expressed apprehension of playing with people's mandate under the guise of nominated MLAs.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that BJP is trying to play with the people's mandate. He said that misusing the provision of nomination to change the majority or minority situation can prove to be harmful.



Sahni said that according to almost all exit polls, BJP is far from majority, in such a situation BJP is eyeing the five MLAs nominated by the Lieutenant Governor.

Sahni has demanded from the central govern-

ment and the Lieutenant Governor to give equal rights to both the regions of Jammu and Kashmir. Sahni said that in the guise of benefiting the BJP, the gap between the two regions should be avoided from deepening.

With this new arrangement, the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly will have 95 members including five nominated members, making the majority figure to form a government at 48.

## Martyr day of Pritam Singh celebrated in Rajwa Lam

The soul of martyr,s still does duty in LoC

J1NEWS SERVICE  
SUNDERBANI/QILA DARHAL.

Today the martyr day of martyr Pritam Singh celebrated in Rajwa Lam.

The soul of martyr Pritam Singh still does duty in this Indo Pak border no any enemy crossed this border till now from this areas said the family members of Martyr Pritam Singh. Family members organised Akhand Path and today celebrate Bhog at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Rajwa after recit shabad kirtan open guru ka langer. Family members and army officers celebrate Martyr day of S, Pritam Singh at his Martyr place Rajwa Lam block Qila Darhal district Rajouri.

In 1964, Pritam Singh, a resident of Rajwa in Nowshera tehsil of Rajouri district, had got premature retirement from the Army.

When the war with Pakistan broke out in 1965, then Pritam Singh and other ex-servicemen of the area were summoned by the Commandant of the local unit of the Army to cooperate with the unit and help it fight the intruders and Pakistani soldiers.

Pritam Singh joined the B-company (as a volunteer) of the Kumaon Regiment which proceeded towards OP Top Hill on the night of October 5, 1965, which was captured by intruders led by the Pakistani army. On the morning of October 6, the final assault with artillery fire was launched on OP Top Hill and it was recaptured along with the Lukhnow post.

"The Pakistan army had also resorted to artillery fire. Pritam Singh was hit by splinters and sacrificed his life for the integrity of the country," said Isher Singh, Pritam's younger



brother.

The task to recapture OP Top Hill and the Lukhnow post was given to the Commandant of the 14 Kumaon Regiment manning the area in 1965.

Pritam Singh was martyred on October 6, 1965. A memorial was constructed later at Rajwa, where family members, Army and civil administration officials pay tributes to the martyr every year, said Pritam Singh's family.

On Thursday, family members with the help of Army and civil officers paid tribute to Pritam Singh at the memorial at Rajwa and remembered his services and sacrifice for the nation.

"The then Commander

of the Nowshera-based 80 Brigade, Brigadier UBS Verma, had issued a bravery certificate in favour of S.Pritam Singh and had also given Rs 1,000 to the family as financial help," said Isher Singh.

He said that on the golden jubilee celebrations of recapturing of OP Top Hill and the Lukhnow post, at Patials on October 6, 2015, the Kumaon Regiment had invited the family members of Pritam Singh.

The soul of martyr Pritam Singh still does duty in LoC Lakhnow post no any enemy crossed this border till now from this areas. When any soldier falls sleep while performing his duty, the spirit of

Pritam Singh push him for wakes him up.

"During the golden jubilee celebrations, Maj Gen V Pandey had promised us to write to the Union Government either for a petrol station or an LPG gas agency in favour of family members. But nothing has been done in the matter so far," said Isher Singh.

Isher Singh, Major Harvir Singh (ret'd), Sukhdev Singh, Malwinder Singh, Rajinder Singh, Dara Singh, Kamaljeet Singh, Tajwinder Singh, Satvir Singh & Harbaksh Singh, Zorawar Singh social activists, were among the prominent people of the area who paid tributes to martyr Pritam Singh today.

## Attack on former J&K Deputy CM Tara Chand sparks widespread concerns over law and order in the region

J1NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

The recent attack on former Deputy Chief Minister, INC candidate from Chhamb, and Working President Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee Shri Tara Chand, has sparked widespread concern across Jammu and Kashmir. The incident, which occurred on October 1st at his residence in Chak Malal, near Khour, has raised serious questions about the state of law and order in the region. People from all sections of society have expressed deep concerns about the growing insecurity faced by even the most prominent leaders. In response to this alarming situation, the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee OBC Department, under the leadership of Chairman Madan Lal Chalotra, immediately convened an online meeting, bringing together representatives from all districts of J&K to discuss the incident and its serious implications.

During the meeting, there was unanimous condemnation of the attack, and participants demanded swift and decisive action from the authorities. The failure of the police to take timely action has been deemed



appalling by many, especially as such incidents targeting Shri Tara Chand have been recurring. The laxity in providing adequate security to a senior leader of his stature has raised doubts about the safety of other public figures and the general population. Party members and concerned citizens believe that threats to life should not be taken lightly and are calling for an immediate upgrade to Shri Tara Chand's security detail to prevent further attacks. Darshan Mehra, State General Secretary, Amit Mehra, State General Secretary OBC Department, JKPC, Jagdish Kashyap Joint Coordinator OBC Department, JKPC has strongly demanded the immediate arrest of the culprits behind the recent attack on Shri Tara Chand.

The incident also raises broader concerns about the overall state of law and order in Jammu and Kashmir. If high-profile indi-

viduals like Tara Chand, a former Deputy Chief Minister, can face such life-threatening situations, it raises questions about the safety of ordinary citizens. The lack of swift police action has further eroded public trust in law enforcement. As this case unfolds, many are questioning whether the state is adequately equipped to handle the rising threats to public safety. The demand for the immediate identification and arrest of the culprits and the intervention of the Director General of Police (DGP) reflects the urgency of the situation. It is imperative that this issue is addressed promptly to restore public confidence in the law enforcement agencies of J&K. Tara Chand is not just a political figure but a valuable leader for the people, and his safety must be ensured at all costs. Those who present in the press conference are Madan Lal Chalotra, Darshan Mehra, Rakesh Verma, Vikas Mehra and others.

## Police arrests drug peddler in Pulwama

J1NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, Police in Pulwama have arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance & cash from his possession.

A Police party of Police Station Pulwama at a checkpoint established at Tengpona Pulwama intercepted a suspicious person identified as Hilal Ahmad Sheikh son of Ghulam Qadir Sheikh resident of Tengpona. During search, heroin like substance weighing 5.8gms and cash amount of Rs 14000/- were recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where remains in custody. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 199/2024 under relevant section of law has been registered at Police Station Pulwama and investigation has been initiated.

We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.



## Cong-NC will get comfortable majority: JKPC Chief

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee President Tariq Hameed Karra on Sunday said that Congress and National Conference coalition will get a comfortable majority to form the government and the final results would be much better than the numbers projected in the exit polls.

This was stated by the JKPC Chief after a meeting with the party candidates of Jammu region here. The meeting held detailed discussions about the conduct of campaign process, the role of administration and prospects of the party and the coalition as well as the strategy ahead.

The participants expressed confidence over the winning prospects of the party and said that Congress-NC will get complete majority in the elec-



tions to form the government, he added.

The party candidates also briefed the President about the role of police and administration in favor of ruling party and the failure of administration at most places in taking action against the electoral mal practices resorted to by the ruling party candidates.

The inaction and non-cooperation by the police and administration was viewed with great concern and said that administration was expected to remain impartial.

Later Karra asserted

that numbers of the NC and Congress coalition will be higher than predicted in the exit polls and the coalition will gain comfortable majority to form the government.

Speaking to journalists after the meeting, Karra said that the exit polls are in tune with our claim but our expectations are much more than projected numbers.

He said that Coalition will have comfortable majority to form the government and both coalition partners shall have very good numbers, adding the basic purpose of forming

coalition would be achieved.

In reply to queries, he further said that doors for like minded parties and individuals shall be opened to keep BJP out of power.

On the question of nomination of five MLAs by the LG and giving them role in govt formation, Karra said it would amount to rigging the poll results and contrary to the basic concept of democracy and defeating the mandate of people.

The Congress shall oppose it tooth and nail and shall not allow BJP to succeed in its designs, although it shall be no way near the claim for formation of govt.

On the issue of ULB and Panchayat elections, Karra said that it shall be the priority of the new government and the final decision should be left to the elected government.

AGENCIES  
PRAYAGRAJ, OCT 6

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said that preparations for the Maha Kumbh 2025 are in full swing, with projects exceeding Rs 5,600 crore aimed at transforming Prayagraj into a grand and beautiful destination. Th CM said, "The previous Kumbh in 2019 attracted around 25 crore devotees from across the globe, participating in this significant spiritual and cultural event. Diplomats from nearly 100 countries also joined the festivities, gaining insights into India's rich spiritual heritage."

Addressing the journalists and taking stock of the preparations, he said, "Various departments are working diligently to ensure that the upcoming Maha Kumbh 2025 is a spectacular success, showcasing the divine and innovative essence of this age-old tradition."



Yogi said that the officials have been instructed to complete the preparations within the stipulated time frame. "Both the state government and the central government departments are coordinating their efforts to move forward with their respective tasks," he said.

He said, "During the Maha Kumbh, the water level at the Sangam reaches 8,000 to 10,000 cusecs. Currently, the water level is between 2.25 lakh to 2.5 lakh cusecs. It may take 10 to 12 days for this to reset, but this will not hinder the preparations for Maha Kumbh."

The CM said that officials have been directed to complete all construction work within the stipulated

time frame. He said that the Maha Kumbh this time will span an area more than twice the size of the previous Kumbh.

He said, "The aim is to ensure that, on peak days, main festivals from January 13 to February 26, including Paush Purnima, Makar Sankranti, Mauni Amavasya, Basant Panchami, Magh Purnima, and Maha Shivratri, devotees do not have to walk more than one kilometre on non-festival days. To facilitate this, over 7,000 buses from the Transport Corporation will be in operation, with electric buses also being provided."

Yogi said, "During Maha Kumbh Prayagraj will present a unique and grand

spectacle. Special security arrangements are being made, with extensive use of artificial intelligence. The government is also moving towards achieving a zero-plastic target. Additionally, all drainage and sewer systems at the Sangam have been taped, and the waste will be diverted, purified through biodegradation, and then discharged."

He emphasised the crucial role that the media played in the success of Kumbh 2019 and expressed confidence that, with their positive contribution, Maha Kumbh will leave a significant mark on the global stage. He also announced the release of the official logo for Maha Kumbh, which embodies the spiritual and cultural heritage of the event.

The CM stated that the saints are the primary organisers of the Kumbh, while the government and administration support by ensuring proper arrange-

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### Three-Tier security...

be announced after every round of counting on the public address system outside the counting halls.

The first ever polls in Jammu and Kashmir after it was made a Union Territory witnessed a voter turnout of 63.45 per cent, less than the 65.52 percent recorded in the 2014 assembly elections.

The fate of 873 candidates, vying for a seat in the 90-member house, has been sealed and it will be known by Tuesday evening.

The prominent among those in the fray are National Conference leader Omar Abdullah, who is contesting from Budgam and Ganderbal segments; Sajad Gani Lone of People's Conference who is contesting from Handwara and Kupwara seats; Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hamid Karra, who is a candidate from Batamaloo seat; and BJP state president Ravindra Raina, who is contesting from Nowshera seat.

The other notable contestants are AICC general secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir (Dooroo), PDP leaders Waheed Para (Pulwama), Iltija Mufti (Bijbehara), Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari (Chanapora), CPI(M) veteran Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami (Kulgam) and former deputy chief ministers Muzaffar Hussain Baig and Tara Chand.

The exit polls, which came out on Saturday, have put the National Conference-Congress alliance in the pole position with the regional party getting the lion's share of the seats.

The BJP is expected to slightly improve on its tally of 25 seats which it had won in the 2014 assembly polls while the PDP, which had won 28 seats in the polls held 10 years ago, is predicted to win less than 10 seats this time.

The pollsters have not given much of a chance to the new and emerging parties like the People's Conference, Apni Party, Democratic Azad Party of Ghulam Nabi Azad and Awami Ittehad Party of Lok Sabha member Sheikh Abdul Rashid. These parties along with independents are expected to win around 10 seats. (Agencies)

### Kashmir higher reaches...

surrounding mountains at Gulmarg and Sonamarg. Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir Valley experienced light rainfall.

Meteorological Centre Srinagar forecasts isolated to scattered light rain in Kashmir valley during the next 48 hours.

"A weak Western disturbance is expected to affect Jammu and Kashmir from Tuesday onwards, and under its influence, the weather will generally be expected to remain cloudy with the possible sunny breaks," independent weather observer Faizan Arif told UNI.

He said there are also chances of a rain shower or spell in some parts of Jammu and Kashmir. Higher reaches may again receive a snowstorm during the period.

The day temperatures are expected to fall by several degrees Celsius. Night temperatures are also expected to drop after the passage of this Western disturbance.

Barring Gulmarg, the night temperature across the Kashmir valley was recorded 2 to 4 degrees Celsius above normal. At Gulmarg, the temperature recorded during the intervening nights of Saturday and Sunday was 1.8 degrees Celsius below normal.

### "No need to think about..."

to constructive engagement between the two nations. Kavinder Gupta said, "The Ministry of External Affairs and the Government of India will think about its policy with Pakistan. Mirwaiz does not need to think or talk about India's foreign policy, the government will do it. They should be more concerned with India rather than Pakistan."

Gupta stressed that Mirwaiz should focus on domestic issues rather than concerning himself with Pakistan, adding that Pakistan is notorious for fostering terrorism "There is no need for anyone to give such advice. Pakistan gives birth to terrorism and spreads it, the country is a 'gyaandaata' for terrorism. They are the ones who kicked out them (Kashmiri Pandits), they

are the ones who created such an atmosphere," said Gupta. (Agencies)

### Exit polls say advantage...

predicted that the regional party could emerge as the single-largest party in J&K.

Reacting to the exit poll predictions, J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina said his party contested the assembly polls with all its strength.

"We are confident that BJP will emerge as the single largest party when the results are out on October 8," he said.

Raina said the BJP leadership that included Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and party president J P Nadda campaigned for the party and got tremendous support from the people.

"BJP will emerge victorious on October 8 and will start working on the formation of the government. We fought the elections on our own strength. Our target is to win the elections with the blessings of the people and we will achieve splendid victory," he said.

J&K Congress president Tair Hameed Karra said the Congress-NC alliance is in a comfortable position to form the next government in the Union territory.

"This election was primarily to keep the BJP out of the power corridors, restoration of statehood along with land and job guarantees. I am seeing the (Congress-NC) alliance in a comfortable position to form the government," Karra said.

He said the mandate of the people is formation of the government against "divisive forces and hatemongers". "People voted for redressal of their genuine grievances as they suffered a lot over the past 10 years with the top echelons of power both in the Raj Bhavan and Civil Secretariat working like kings. The BJP needs to explain to the people what they have done in the past 10 years," Karra said.

He said the BJP has no moral right to accuse the NC and Congress of reviving terrorism and said, "Everyone knows that terrorism shifted from Kashmir to the peaceful Jammu region. Only the goal post has changed in the past 10 years."

People's Democratic Party (PDP) said the exit polls were not reliable and it was too premature to talk about government formation.

"We have seen that exit polls are not reliable. What matters are the numbers that will come at the end of counting," senior PDP leader Naeem Akhtar told PTI.

Asked if the PDP will support the NC-Congress coalition if need be, Akhtar said it was premature to comment on that.

"They might not even need our support. Finally, a decision on this matter will be taken by the party. All said and done, we are still part of the INDIA bloc. We have not gone anywhere," he added.

The C-Voter-India Today survey predicted 40-48 seats for the NC-Congress alliance and put the BJP at 27-32 seats in the 90-member J&K assembly.

Dainik Bhaskar pegged the NC-Congress alliance at 35-40 and the BJP at 20-25.

Peoples' Pulse saw the NC-Congress alliance with 46-50 seats as against the BJP's 23-27, while Republic-Gulistan put the the NC-Congress tally lower at 31-36 as against the BJP's 28-30.

In different polls, the PDP was seen winning between 5 and 12 seats, while other candidates were also seen bagging 4-16 seats.

The results of the assembly elections will be announced on October 8.

### "Will form govt in both..."

Haryana). The BJP government will get the blessings of the people. The way Prime Minister Narendra Modi has worked for the poor in the last 10 years, he has built development and trust in Jammu and Kashmir. People are voting for the BJP and the results will come on the 8th, in which the corrupt and looters will lose."

### "This is a great thing..."

ko hume khatam karna hai, aur Jammu and Kashmir

## Preparations for Maha Kumbh must be completed within time: Yogi

ko ikhate rakhna hai (we need to end the hatred, and keep Jammu and Kashmir united)."

Farooq Abdullah, however, refused to comment on the exit polls and said that on October 8, when the counting is due for the assembly polls, the results will be in front of all.

"On October 8 all the results would be in front of you, the boxes will be opened and we would know who stands where. But I do know this much that the Congress-NC alliance would be forming the government with a majority," he said.

### NIA arrests alleged terror...

The premises searched by the NIA were located in Goalpara (Assam), Aurangabad, Jalna and Malegaon in Maharashtra, Meerut and Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Baramulla, Pulwama and Ramban in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the searches, the NIA teams seized several incriminating documents, electronic devices, pamphlets and magazines. These are being examined for further leads and evidence against the suspects whose premises were searched on Saturday, the anti-terror agency said, adding the investigations in the case are continuing.

### J&K Elections Vote Counting...

remain closed for other activities on 7th, 8th, and 9th October, 2024," read an official handout.

These institutions include: Padamshree Padma Sachdev College for Women Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. Govt MAM College, Jammu. And Govt Polytechnic , Bikram Chowk, Jammu, the order said.

### Hindu society must unite...

chief stressed the "Hindu society must unite for its security by eliminating language, caste, and regional differences and disputes".

He also stressed that discipline in conduct, duty towards the state and dedication to goals are essential qualities.

"A society is not just formed by individuals and their families, but by considering the comprehensive concerns through which one can attain spiritual fulfilment," said Bhagwat.

"The functioning of the RSS is not mechanical but idea based. It is an unparalleled organisation whose values trickle down from the group leaders to the volunteers, their families and to the society at large," he added.

Urging the volunteers to maintain widespread contact within communities, the RSS chief said that efforts should be made to alleviate community deficiencies by empowering the society.

"The focus should be on social harmony, justice, health, education, and self-reliance. The volunteers should always remain active and foster harmony, environmental awareness, indigenous values, and civic consciousness within families, which are the basic components of a society," said Bhagwat.

The RSS chief said India's global reputation and standing is attributed to its strength and the safety of its expatriates is assured only when their nation becomes strong.

A total of 3,827 RSS volunteers attended the event. The event was also attended by senior RSS functionaries Ramesh Agarwal, Jagdish Singh Rana, Ramesh Chand Mehta and Vaidya Radheshyam Garg, among others. (Agencies)

### Removal of women elected...

to reiterate is that the matter of removal of an elected public representative should not be treated so lightly, especially when it concerns women belonging to rural areas".

The bench was dealing with a plea of Manish Ravindra Panpatil, an elected sarpanch of gram panchayat, Vichkheda situated in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. She was ordered to be removed from her post after

a complaint by fellow villagers that she was allegedly residing with her mother-in-law in a house constructed on government land.

The allegation was denied by Panpatil, who claimed she does not reside in that particular dwelling, and that she lives separately with her husband and children in a rented accommodation.

However, without appropriately verifying these facts and on the basis of "bald statements", the Collector concerned passed an order disqualifying her from continuing as sarpanch.

"This order was thereafter confirmed by the divisional commissioner. Subsequently, the high court vide the impugned order, dismissed the appellant's writ petition against the commissioner's order on a technical ground, thus putting a seal of approval on her removal from office," the bench noted.

The bench noted that the villagers grasped at straws in their bid to evict Panpatil from her position and their cause was perhaps aided by the mechanical and summary orders passed by government authorities at various levels.

"These orders were passed in a lackadaisical manner, without making any effort towards conducting a fact-finding exercise, so as to confirm whether the allegations levied by the private respondents were sufficiently made out. There is nothing on record to suggest that any objection of the appellant's family having encroached upon government land was ever raised when she filed her nomination papers," the bench said.

While noting that the vagaries of the present factual matrix is far from unique and is unfortunately somewhat of a norm, the bench said there is no doubt that the private respondents (villagers) may have operated in a discriminatory manner.

It said what is more worrying is the casual approach adopted by government authorities in summarily removing an elected representative.

"This is all the more concerning when the representative in question is a woman and elected in the reservation quota, thereby indicating a systemic pattern of prejudicial treatment, permeating through all levels of administrative functioning," it said.

The top court said having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case at hand, it sees no credible and convincing material on record to substantiate the allegations of encroachment of government land by Panpatil before or post her election as sarpanch.

"In this vein, the authorities concerned need to sensitise themselves and work towards creating a more congenial atmosphere where women, such as the appellant, can prove their worth by rendering their services as sarpanch of the gram panchayat," said the bench, adding that her removal from the office of sarpanch, is highly disproportionate.

It set aside the Bombay High Court order of August 3, 2023 and allowed Panpatil to continue and perform the duties of sarpanch of the gram panchayat till the completion of her tenure. (PTI)

### Indian Army seizes huge...

major search operation was launched by Romeo Force of the Indian Army in the Jhulas area, where during a search a suspected terrorist bag with a huge amount of cache like AK 47 and Pistol rounds of Pakistani origin and sophisticated explosives like RCIED, Timed destruction IED, Stove IED, explosives for IED and Chinese Grenades were found," the Army said in a statement.

According to the officials, all items were in functional and ready-to-use condition.

"Considering smooth elections and upcoming poll results this is a major success by the Indian Army denying any possibility to disturb the security grid," they said.

The operation is still underway, they added.

### Suspicious object...

He said post recovery of the IED, the area has been cordoned off and traffic has been diverted.



## MNRE Joint Secretary Chairs Crucial Meeting with JPDCL on PM Surya Ghar Yojana

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, OCT 4

In a significant move to boost the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Sh. Ajay Yadav IAS chaired a high-level meeting with Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) officers today. The power point presentation was made by meeting was attended by Choudhary Mohd Yasin MD, JPDCL. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Distribution, Chief Engineer Projects Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, concerned Assistant Executive Engineers of JPDCL, Bank officials and REC officials and Vendors.

The meeting aimed to review the progress, address challenges, and streamline the execution of the scheme, which provides free electricity to households in Jammu and Kashmir by installing solar panels on their rooftops.

"The PM Surya Ghar Yojana is a flagship program of the government, and we are committed to its successful implementation," said the Joint Secretary. "Today's meeting was crucial in resolving ongoing issues and accelerating the installation of solar panels in eligible house-



holds." He added.

He also said to arrange training programmes for Asstt Executive Engineers so as to make them fully conversant with the RTS portal. REC was asked to arrange it from Regional office through VC for Discoms employees next week. The high number consumers' registrations are being shown under PMSGMBY portal are due to J&K Energy Dev Agency (Jakeda)'s existing 200 MW solar rooftop schemes. The REC-IT Division was advised to resolve it or give access to Discoms so that they can approach consumers for the submission of applications. On portal, vendors preferred area of RTS installations may also be indicated so that consumers get proper response from interested vendors in those areas. MD JPDCL had asked REC to integrate of State Subsidy to be done on portal. He further said to REC

to share videos with Discoms and also to include Dogri language in media campaigns. The meeting deliberated that REC CO and RO shall take up with JKPDD/LPDD/Discoms to nominate SIA and to submit Capacity Building programme for RTS installations to REC. He further said apart from National level Third Party monitoring, State Level can also be done if Discoms interested. The MoUs between State Govt & MNRE is to be signed shortly. He also said Joint Certificate regarding correct mapping of discoms data has been submitted by LPDD. JPDCL & KPDD will submit shortly.

The dignitary clarified eligibility criteria and documentation requirements. The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the PM Surya Ghar Yojana aims to provide free electricity to households, promoting renewable energy and

reducing carbon footprint.

The Jammu and Kashmir Government recently issued Order, outlining the scheme's details, including eligibility criteria, beneficiary selection, and installation procedures. MD JPDCL said that "We appreciate the MNRE's proactive approach in addressing our concerns. This meeting has paved the way for smoother implementation and timely completion of the project."

The MNRE and JPDCL will work closely to finalize vendor agreements, streamline payment processes and intensify awareness campaigns. The successful implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Yojana will pave the way for a sustainable energy future, benefiting thousands of households in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Nodal officer presented the votes of thanks to the attendees.

## Shivya Ayurveda and Shivya Foundation organize langar on Sharad Navratri at Katra

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Shivya Ayurveda and Shivya Foundation organized a langar (community meal) to mark the auspicious occasion of Sharad Navratri at Katra, the base camp for the revered shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi. The event, held under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, witnessed the participation of over 500 people, including devotees who had come to offer prayers at the sacred temple.

Sahil Aggarwal, founder of Shivya Ayurveda, shared that Shivya Foundation is a



Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) committed to social welfare and community service. The langar served as a way to contribute to the spiritual journey of the pilgrims while pro-

moting the values of sharing and compassion.

"We are honored to provide this humble service to the devotees during Sharad Navratri, a time of devotion and community"

said Sahil Aggarwal.

The event was warmly received by pilgrims and locals alike, highlighting the spirit of service and unity during the festive season.

## Indigenous defence innovations for self-reliance: Rajnath Singh to inaugurate DefConnect 4.0

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, OCT 4

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will, on October 07, 2024, inaugurate DefConnect 4.0 at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt, a significant step towards advancing indigenous innovation and celebrating the growing defence ecosystem of the country. The event is being organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence - Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO), under Department of Defence Production, Ministry

of Defence. DefConnect 4.0 marks a milestone in India's defence innovation journey, bringing together the Armed Forces, Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), industry leaders, innovators, startups and MSMEs, academia, incubators, investors and policymakers. The event will feature an exciting Technology Showcase, presenting iDEX innovators with a unique opportunity to exhibit their cutting-edge technologies, advanced capabilities and ground-breaking products. This showcase is designed to

engage a diverse audience of stakeholders, fostering collaboration and sparking dialogue that drives innovation forward with focus on forging powerful collaborations.

DefConnect 4.0 will feature launches and announcements by Raksha Mantri, alongside interactive and engaging sessions featuring industry leaders and defence stalwarts. The event will also include a themed session focusing on recent budget announcements, key takeaways for the defence innovation ecosystem, and the latest

initiatives in the semiconductor domain. Till date, iDEX has launched 11 editions of Defence India Start-up Challenges, and has garnered over 9,000 applications. It is currently collaborating with more than 450 startups/MSMEs on important projects. Launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2018, iDEX continues to provide a unified platform for various stakeholders in the defence and aerospace sectors, contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

## Indian Army conduct Swasth Bharat and medical camp at Mangnar, Poonch

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, OCT 6

Indian Army living up to its ethos of providing safety and security to the people conducted a 'Medical Camp' in the remote area of Parisha, Child Care Institute Mangnar, in Poonch District. The camp aimed at providing free medical health check-up and distribution of medicines to the underprivileged and backward classes of the community. These areas are usually inaccessible by roads and face a dearth of proper medical care especially during winters. An outreach program in form of medical patrol to extend medical & health care services to these people went out of its way to reach the inaccessible areas. In



addition to the free medical check-up, medicines for common ailments and seasonal disease were also provided to the people along with basic medicines for their livestock's. The combat medics under supervision of trained doctors conducted the medical camp to reach out to the needy and aggrieved people in these remote areas. While tending to

their ailments, people were also motivated to avail government health schemes. The gratitude of the populace was visible in eyes of the beneficiaries and blessings of elders. The people of these community thanked the Indian Army for their endeavour to support the local populace and expressed their gratitude towards the initiative of the Indian Army.

## Indian Army conduct medical patrol for Gujjar & Bakkarwal at Sial Sui Rajouri

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, OCT 6

The Indian Army extended healthcare services to the remote parts of Rajouri district by mobile medical patrols in the village of Narota, Sial Sui. The locals of this village who are often cut off from mainstream healthcare facilities due to their geographic isolation and challenging terrains, benefited immensely from this initiative which contributed to the overall well-being of the locals who often suffer due to disparities in healthcare leading to higher morbidity and mortality rates. The mobile medical patrols, equipped with essential medical supplies and services, reached these areas to provide healthcare with compassion. The primary objective was to provide on-the-spot medical care,



including basic health check-ups, treatment of common ailments and distribution of necessary medications.

The medical patrol also focused on preventive healthcare by offering immunizations and disseminating information about hygiene, nutrition and disease prevention. The Mobile Medical Patrol provided special attention

to vulnerable sections of the population, such as children and the elderly. By ensuring that these groups receive timely and appropriate medical attention, the Indian Army helped to mitigate the risk of complications that could arise from untreated health issues. The response from the local population has been overwhelmingly positive. Villagers expressed

deep gratitude for Army's initiative, which brings much-needed medical services directly to their doorsteps. Beyond the immediate medical benefits, the mobile medical patrols play a crucial role in building and strengthening the relationship between the Indian Army and the local communities and fosters trust and goodwill. The proactive approach in medical assistance helps to prevent onset of diseases and also reduces the healthcare burden on the individuals and the system. It hence reassures the residents of the Indian Army commitment to their welfare and security, thereby enhancing the sense of safety and community cohesion. A total number of 38 villagers (14 Male, 18 Female and 06 Children) were benefited by the mobile medical patrol.

## Manya's effort goes in vain as Uttarakhand registers a 20-run victory over J&K

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJKOT, OCT 6

Riding on a brilliant batting display by skipper Shagun, coupled with splendid bowling show by Sakshi and Kareena, Uttarakhand got the better of Jammu and Kashmir in a close contest by a narrow margin of 20 runs as Manya Banotra's all-round show went vain in the ongoing Women's U-19 T20 Trophy at Sansara Cricket Ground-A Rajkot today.

Uttarakhand scored 130 runs in the stipulated 20 overs, losing 6 wickets in the process.

Skipper Shagun top scored with 57 runs off 43 balls with 11 boundaries, while Ananya and Kareena contributed 17 and 15 runs to the total respectively.

## Indian Army Conducts Paddar Cricket Premier League At Gulabgarh Kishtwar



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, OCT 6

In its continued efforts to promote community welfare and encourage sportsmanship, the Indian Army, successfully organised the Paddar Cricket Premier League at Gulabgarh which concluded on 04 Oct 2024. The tournament was inaugurated on 21 Sep 24 and witnessed participation from 32 teams from the Paddar region. After 30 exciting

league matches, the final match was held on 04 Oct 2024 between Wisdan Vs CG Lions team in which CG Lions emerged victorious. The team was awarded a championship trophy and a cash prize of Rs 10,000/-. The runner-up team was awarded a trophy and a cash prize of Rs 5,000/-. Special recognition was given to individuals who were "man of the series" and the "man of the match" and were rewarded with cash prize and trophies.

The two commentators were also felicitated with cash prizes of Rs 2,000/- each. The tournament aimed to provide a platform for local youth to showcase their cricketing talents while fostering a spirit of healthy competition and community engagement. The event was highly appreciated and well received by the locals which strengthened the bonhomie and camaraderie between locals and Indian Army personnel.

## JKPS Kathua wins boys, DPS Kathua lifts girls title

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, OCT 6

District Kathua Softball Championship organized by District Kathua Softball Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council under the auspices of J&K Softball Association concluded at Delhi Public School, Kathua here today.

A huge number of athletes took part in the Championship.

Sandeep Sharma, Physical Director, Government Degree College, Kathua was Chief Guest on the closing ceremony, while Mrs Charu Andotra, Principal, Mount Litra was the Guest of Honour and Mrs Gurpreet Kour, Coordinator was also present as the Special Guest.

The Championship was organized under the supervision of Sh Ajay Singh Salathia, Outstanding Softball Athlete & Sh



Jasbeer Singh, Outstanding Softball Athlete and certified National Umpire of Softball.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest congratulated the organizers for organizing the Championship in a most befitting manner.

He said athletes associated with the sport of Softball should work hard to bring laurels for Jammu & Kashmir UT as this sports falls in the

sports requirement quota of J&K Government which will be beneficial for the Softball athletes in future.

While lauding the tremendous efforts of Ms Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council for uplifting sports & games in the Union Territory, the Chief Guest said that Sports Council is providing modern sports facilities to the athletes to blossom at the higher levels.

He extended thanks to

Principal DPS for cooperation and coordination in holding the event smoothly and successfully.

Later, the Chief Guest distributed medals and trophies among the winners and runners-up teams, besides the third place holders.

He also presented momentos to guests present in the concluding ceremony and officials from various schools & Clubs.

The Championship was sponsored by J&K Sports Council.

**RESULTS:**  
**WOMEN:** Winner- Delhi Public School, Kathua; Runners-up- Young Sisters, Kathua  
Third place- Kathua Rockers  
**MEN:** Winner- JK Public School, Kathua  
Runners-up- Delhi Public School, Kathua  
Third place- Huge Blast-er's



## EDITORIAL

## Decoding the Exit Polls for J&K Assembly Elections 2024

As the exit polls for the 2024 Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections are revealed, a wave of speculation and anticipation has gripped political circles and the public alike. Exit polls, by their very nature, are snapshots of voter sentiment, attempting to predict the outcome of an electoral contest. While these polls do not represent the final verdict, they offer valuable insights into the political undercurrents that have shaped voter preferences in this crucial election.

The 2024 Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections carry enormous significance, not only for the region but also for the nation as a whole. This is the first full-fledged election since the revocation of Article 370 in 2019, which stripped Jammu & Kashmir of its special status and reorganized it into two Union Territories. The return of the electoral process symbolizes a critical step in the region's political evolution, and the results of this election are likely to have far-reaching consequences for its governance and political landscape.

The exit polls, as expected, present a fragmented picture. Several key players, including the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the National Conference (NC), the People's Democratic Party (PDP), and emerging alliances, are vying for control of the Assembly. The polls suggest a close contest, with no single party likely to secure a decisive mandate. The BJP is predicted to perform strongly in Jammu, while traditional regional parties such as the NC and PDP appear to maintain their foothold in the Kashmir Valley.

This polarization of voter preferences between Jammu and Kashmir regions, while not new, reflects the underlying political and demographic realities of the Union Territory. The exit polls indicate a deeply divided electorate, where regional aspirations, security concerns, development promises, and the emotional resonance of Article 370 continue to influence voter behavior.

However, caution is needed when interpreting these numbers. Historically, exit polls have been prone to significant errors, especially in regions with diverse and volatile political dynamics like Jammu & Kashmir. In the 2019 general elections, for example, many exit polls underestimated the BJP's eventual landslide victory nationwide. The complex, multi-layered identity politics in Jammu & Kashmir makes it particularly challenging to capture voter sentiment accurately.

The stakes for the BJP are particularly high in this election. After spearheading the abrogation of Article 370, the party is seeking a political mandate to legitimize its governance reforms in the region. A strong performance in Jammu is critical for the BJP to offset its comparatively weaker standing in the Kashmir Valley. Should the party emerge as the largest single entity or be in a position to form a coalition government, it will reinforce its narrative of having successfully integrated Jammu & Kashmir into the national mainstream.

For the National Conference and the PDP, this election is about reclaiming lost ground. Both parties, having historically dominated the political landscape in the region, have seen their influence wane since 2019. The exit polls suggest that while they may not dominate the entire region, their performance in the Valley remains strong. However, whether this support translates into sufficient numbers to form a government remains uncertain.

Emerging political forces and alliances could also play the role of kingmakers in the event of a hung assembly. Smaller parties and independents could gain leverage in the post-election scenario, potentially influencing the policy direction of the region.

Beyond the question of who wins, the real issue at hand is the future of governance in Jammu & Kashmir. The results will determine the trajectory of political stability, development, and security in the region. Jammu & Kashmir's unique socio-political landscape, marred by years of conflict and developmental challenges, requires a government that can address local issues while ensuring harmony between the distinct aspirations of Jammu and Kashmir regions.

Moreover, the new government will face the task of rebuilding trust in political institutions, which has been eroded over the years due to instability and governance challenges. Issues such as unemployment, infrastructure development, security concerns, and ensuring equitable development across the regions will be at the forefront of the policy agenda.

As the final vote counting approaches, it is crucial to remember that exit polls are merely indicators, not final outcomes. While they generate excitement and fuel discussions, the actual results may still hold surprises. The focus should remain on ensuring that the post-election process—be it the formation of the government or addressing electoral grievances—is carried out smoothly and peacefully.

Ultimately, the people of Jammu & Kashmir deserve a government that will prioritize their aspirations and work towards building a stable, prosperous, and secure future. The exit polls give us a glimpse of the direction the wind might be blowing, but the final verdict will rest in the hands of the voters.

As we await the results, let this election serve as a reminder that democracy thrives on the collective voice of the people. It is their voice, and their mandate, that will shape the future of this critical region.

## Legal tussles over EWS quota violations undermine RTE Act in Delhi

BK JHA

The consistent violation of the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota under the Right to Education (RTE) Act has become a troubling issue across India, particularly in major cities like Delhi. Despite clear legal mandates, several private schools continue to deny admissions to children who rightfully qualify under this provision, creating a barrier to equal educational opportunities for underprivileged communities.

Recent legal proceedings in the Delhi High Court have once again brought this issue to the forefront, highlighting the need for stricter enforcement of the law to safeguard the rights of EWS students. A case in point is

Master Ayan Saifi, a 4-year-old son of Shahid who had been allotted a seat through a computerised draw of lots conducted by Delhi's Directorate of Education (DoE) for the academic year 2024-25. But, a leading private Senior Secondary School in Rohini denied the admission and that ensued a legal tussle. Shahid approached to Delhi High Court with his plight and sought justice. It is misconception that lawyers are reluctant to take up such cases especially for people coming from lower strata of society. Credit goes to a young Delhi lawyer Aman Sharma who took up the case for the kid and secured provisional admission for Ayan Saifi to the school.

The Delhi High Court, under the guidance of Justice Swarana Kanta

Sharma, acknowledged the violation of the RTE Act and in an interim order granted provisional admission to the child, emphasising the school's legal obligation to comply with the EWS quota. The RTE Act 2009 is a landmark legislation that ensures free and compulsory education for all children aged 6 to 14. One of its key provisions mandates that 25 per cent of seats in private unaided schools be reserved for children from EWS and disadvantaged groups (DG). This quota is intended to promote inclusive education and bridge the gap between socio-economic disparities. However, despite the importance of this provision, its implementation has been met with resistance from many private schools, not only in

Delhi but schools across the country. The refusal of admission highlights the ongoing challenge in enforcing this law. It violates a child's fundamental right to education under Article 21-A of the Constitution. "Denying children from economically weaker sections the education they are entitled to, despite a confirmed allotment, not only goes against the spirit of the Right to Education Act but also creates unnecessary hurdles for families already facing socio-economic challenges," argues advocate Sharma.

A pattern of non-compliance can easily be seen and unfortunately, it has become pervasive across private educational institutions. Ayan's case is not an isolated incident. Private schools in Delhi have repeatedly been found

guilty of disregarding the EWS quota, prompting legal battles that seek to restore the rightful educational opportunities for underprivileged children.

In March 2024, the Delhi High Court revised the income threshold for EWS admissions, reinforced eligibility criteria and offered clearer guidance. However, schools have continued to evade their responsibilities. A similar ruling in 2022 in the case of Rameshwar Jha v. Principal Richmond Global School set a precedent for punitive action against schools that refuse EWS admissions.

The Delhi High Court had then warned that schools could face severe consequences under the Delhi School Education Act, 1973, for non-compliance with the RTE Act.

Yet, schools still engage in tactics that delay or deny admission to EWS students, forcing families to take the matter to court.

The larger issue at hand is the erosion of trust in educational institutions and the judiciary's role in upholding constitutional rights. Advocate Sharma urges the Directorate of Education (DoE) and the judiciary to take stringent actions against schools that defy the RTE Act, calling for penalties and stricter enforcement measures.

It becomes imperative for policymakers, educators, and civil society to collaborate in upholding the principles of the RTE Act and to work towards a more inclusive education system.

(Author is a senior journalist; Views expressed are personal)

## Bangladesh's interim Govt's crackdown on secularists

HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

It is important to examine in some detail Shahriar Kabir's arrest in Dhaka on September 17, 2024, and the subsequent related developments, to understand the forces driving Bangladesh's interim government and direction in which it is taking the country. To start with, one must briefly look at who Kabir is. Author, journalist, film-maker and an internationally respected champion of human rights, secularism and democracy, he has also been at the forefront of the struggle to bring to justice those who had collaborated with the Pakistanis during Bangladesh's liberation war of 1971 and were their accomplices in the perpetration of crimes against humanity including mass murder and rape. He played an important role in the formation of the Ekattor Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee (Committee for the Uprootment of the Killers and Collaborators of Seventy-One) under the leadership of Jahanara Imam whose husband and one of whose sons were savagely killed by the Pakistanis in 1971. Kabir, who subsequently became the organisation's president, was, at the time of his arrest, president of its advisory committee.

Second, one needs to look at the circumstances of his arrest, the charges against him and his accusers and their ties with the interim government. According to a report in

The Dhaka Tribune, dated September 17, 2024 and carried under the heading "Shahriar Kabir arrested in Dhaka," Mufti Harun Izzar Chowdhury, joint secretary of the Hefazat-e-Islam (Hefazat), filed, on August 20, 2024, a complaint with the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in Dhaka, against Sheikh Hasina and 23 others—one of them being Kabir—accusing them of crimes against humanity and mass murder in connection with a rally by Hefazat on May 5, 2013.

Further, according to a report in The Daily Star, datelined September 18, 2024, and carried under the heading "Shahriar Kabir placed on 7-day remand", Kabir, along with Mozammel Babu, was produced before the court with a 10-day remand plea by the police, in a case concerning the death of a domestic help, Liza Akter, during the quota reform protests. The report cited a sub-inspector of police present in the court as saying that Dhaka's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Md Sanullah, passed the orders remanding him custody for seven days.

A report datelined September 17, 2024, and published in Prothom Alo English under the heading, "Shahriar Kabir, Nurul Islam arrested," cited sources as saying that Kabir was an accused in several murder cases filed with Jatrabari and other police stations in Dhaka. According to infor-



mation available with this writer, seven murder cases have so far been levelled against him besides the one the ICT. The levelling of murder charges against a person of Kabir's stature is not only laughable but suggests, as in a number of other cases, planned and coordinated behind-the-scenes effort.

As seen, the case before the ICT has been filed by Mufti Harun Izzar Chowdhury, joint secretary of the Hefazat-e-Islam (Hefazat) accusing Sheikh Hasina and 23 others, including Kabir, of crimes against humanity and mass murder in connection with a rally by Hefazat on May 5, 2013.

According to a report in The Dhaka Tribune (August 19, 2024) under the heading "Hefazat rally in Shapla Chattar: Odhikar publishes list of killed people," Odhikar, a human rights organisation, published on Monday (August 19) a list of people allegedly killed during the Awami League-led government's crackdown on the Hefazat's rally on May 5-6, 2013, at Shapla Chattar in

Dhaka. The list, originally published in 2013, had led to action against the organisation by the Awami League government.

Citing persecution by the latter government, Odhikar, according to the report, urged the interim government to immediately form an independent inquiry commission headed by a Supreme Court judge and conduct an impartial investigation into the extrajudicial killings committed on May 5 and 6 of 2013 and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The Dhaka Tribune report did not mention whether Odhikar had named the perpetrators. As seen above, Hefazat's complaint was filed on August 20, 2024, the day after Odhikar's post. Three questions arise here. What was the number of people killed? Was the rally peaceful?

What was the context in which it was held and what were the Hefazat's demands? Against the Odhikar's figures, a BBC report, datelined May 6, 2024, stated that at least 27 persons had been killed

and dozens hurt in the clashes. It also said that at least two of the dead were policemen. Also, the fact that the police, according to the report, "used stun grenades and rubber bullets" to disperse the protesters indicates an effort to keep the casualties to minimum.

The rally was extremely violent. The report cites one witness as saying that the demonstrators "were very aggressive, some people were throwing stones and the situation quickly become violent... the police had no option but to respond". The witness further told the BBC, "Rioters vandalised markets and set fire to bookshops where the Holy Koran is sold. Thousands of Koran and religious books burned. They also attacked the ruling party's political office and national mosque."

The Hefazat's 13-point programme includes the enactment of an anti-blasphemy law with provision for death penalty, exemplary punishment to all bloggers and others who "insult Islam," cancellation of Bangladesh's policy for women's development, bans on the erection of sculptures in public places, the mixing of men and women in public, candlelight vigils, and "shameless behaviour and dresses," besides declaring Ahmadiyas as "non-Muslims." Nadia Sarmin, covering its rally for ETV, was mercilessly beaten for daring to be a woman "in a men only" event. Griev-

ously injured, she was rescued by other journalists.

It is not surprising if all this reminds one of the Taliban's agenda, a DW report (May 9, 2013) by Graham Lucas under the heading "Bangladesh Chaos," cited Maulana Habibur Rahman, one of the Hefajat leaders, as boasting of his role in the 1980s Afghan war and his support for the former al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

The interim government has close and warm relations with the Hefajat. It has lifted the ban on the organisation. The advisor for religious affairs, AFM Khalid Hossain, is the latter's Nayeb-e-Amir. Chief Advisor Mohammad Yunus had a long and cordial meeting on August 31, 2024, with Mamunul Haque, the organisations head. The Hefajat is holding rallies and processions all over the country.

It is in this context that one has to see Shahriar Kabir's arrest and continued detention, in the teeth of demands for his release by international human rights activists and organisations.

The idea is to send a clear message to people in Bangladesh: do not champion secular democracy and humanism and oppose Islamic fundamentalism. If we can send Shahriar Kabir to jail, we can also send you there.

(The author is Consulting Editor of national newspaper; views expressed are personal)

## The Power of Intelligence, Knowledge and Wisdom

RAVI VALLURI

Two thousand five hundred years ago, a prince from the formidable Sakya dynasty, in the quest for reality and truth, discarded his monarchical apparel to adorn ochre robes and went on to become Gautama the monk. He and his mind incessantly wandered till the attainment of truth and insight. Upon attaining enlightenment after performing arduous tapas, Gautama the monk became Buddha the Enlightened and Compassionate One. The mind of the prince turned Bhikkhu had become hollow and empty from within and without realise the pristine verisimilitude. There is also the story of Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu.

Once a young evangelist who cast away the traditions and rituals of the Catholic order, only to serve the poor and infirm

(particularly those afflicted by leprosy), she was first to become a sister, then Mother Teresa, after rendering selfless yeoman service to the populace of Kolkata (then Calcutta) and humanity at large. She was the fourth Indian to be canonised on September 4, 2016, and was set in stone as St Teresa of Calcutta by Pope Francis for the phenomenal work and the miracles that have taken place. Buddha and St Teresa were not confined to monasteries and convents respectively to live their lives as ascetics in contemplation, meditation, chastity and poverty. Both were prototypical individuals who transcended boundaries to carve a niche for themselves by providing an alternative ideology.

Meanwhile, way back in the year 1943 a young Swedish national, Ingvar Kampard set up a company called IKEA. IKEA is an



acronym for Ingvar Kampard Elmtaryd at Agunnaryd. Today it is one of the largest ready-to-assemble furniture companies in the world. These are individuals, who with their mettle moves hold the ordinary traveller's gaze in askance. What differentiates them from the rest of the pack? It is not the opacity of their thought process, but looking for

out-of-the-box solutions. While IKEA sets up furniture in our households, and Jio and WhatsApp provide the necessary seamless connectivity in communication, it is intriguing to decipher the letters of the acronym IKW.

I stand for Intelligence, K signifies Knowledge and W represents Wisdom. Intelligence, Knowledge, and Wisdom need to be

harnessed by humans in ample measure to metamorphose our minds and lives to become true achievers. In the wired world today, we are girdled with far superior technology in comparison to a few decades ago and are surrounded by a plethora of gizmos at our disposal. The product and service should necessarily be flexible, adaptable, and positively meant for the public good. Only in such a scenario will the longevity of the article in question be ensured and assured.

Siddhartha with his superior intelligence grasped that he was encumbered by misery and suffering; he gained knowledge through the various techniques of pranayama and meditation and ultimately wisdom dawned on him in the form of enlightenment. Today a seeker without living in the monastic order, living like any

ordinary individual could attain and experience bliss and enlightenment by practising the technique of Vipassana.

Similarly, in the Art of Living, through the regular practice of the Sudarshan Kriya, a seeker can live in the present moment by banishing antipathetic thoughts. St. Teresa of Kolkata too possessed enormous intelligence, knowledge, and wisdom to establish the order of the Missionaries of Charity to serve the distressed sections of humanity. The human mind should be developed into a sacred place, which is malleable to embrace positivity and confidence to harness the skills of intelligence and knowledge so that the Gods bestow us with a bounty of wisdom.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattargh East Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)



## FEAR ABOUT EGGS SPIKING CHOLESTEROL LEVELS 'UNWARRANTED': EXPERTS

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 6

Consuming an egg every day is safe and good for your heart, and it will not increase your blood cholesterol levels, said experts on Saturday noting that the fear is unwarranted.

Given the rise in cholesterol and poor heart health, the number of eggs a person can consume per day has been long debated.

Dr. Rajeev Jayadevan, Kerala State IMA Research Cell Chairman told IANS that eggs are an important source of all-round nutrition.

"Eggs are perhaps the best source of protein in the world, it also contains other nutrients, including vitamins and minerals. Importantly, they are easily available and relatively economical.

"There is a lot of unne-



cessary anxiety about the consumption of eggs, to the extent that people are fearful of consuming it. This is unwarranted because various studies have shown that increasing the number of eggs taken daily, does not necessarily lead to a rise in blood cholesterol," said Jayadevan, also a gastroenterologist.

He explained that the cholesterol circulating in the blood is primarily made in the liver in

response to the body's various nutritional and metabolic requirements. It is not significantly impacted by the amount of cholesterol consumed in our diet, for instance, by consuming eggs.

"Unfortunately, people believe that cholesterol in blood is directly linked with cholesterol in the diet," Jayadevan said.

While high cholesterol levels are to be avoided, specifically, especially high LDL levels (bad cho-

lesterol), it is important to consider all the risk factors while assessing the risk for cardiovascular disease.

"These risk factors include cigarette smoking, alcohol use, family history of heart disease, obesity, sedentary life, lack of exercise, diabetes, and hypertension. Elevated LDL and decreased HDL (good cholesterol)," the expert said.

"One can safely say that consuming one egg per day will not do any harm to anyone," he said while adding that "having more than one egg per day occasionally is unlikely to change any cardiovascular outcome".

Eggs are rich in high-quality protein, vitamin B12, phosphorus, and selenium. They also contain choline, important for brain health.

The vitamin A, vitamin B12, and selenium in eggs are key to keeping the

immune system healthy.

"While eggs provide essential nutrients, the yolk is high in dietary cholesterol, with one yolk containing about 186 mg," Dr. J. P. S. Sawhney, Chairman of the Department of Cardiology at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi, told IANS.

However, "dietary cholesterol has less of an impact on blood cholesterol levels for many people," added Sawhney, also the Chairman of the Lipid Guidelines, recently released by the Cardiologists Society of India (CSI).

The expert called on individuals with high cholesterol or with certain genetic predispositions (like familial hypercholesterolemia), and existing heart disease to monitor their egg intake.

"Still, one egg per day can fit into a heart-healthy diet," he noted.

## Researchers harness AI to repurpose existing drugs for pain management

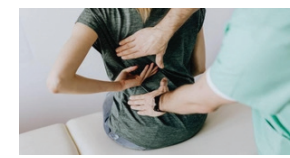
AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 6

A team of researchers are using artificial intelligence (AI) to discover existing drugs to help patients suffering from chronic pain.

The team from Cleveland Clinic joined hands with tech giant IBM and used their deep-learning framework to find multiple gut microbiome-derived metabolites and FDA-approved drugs that are non-addictive and non-opioid and which are repurposed to treat chronic pain.

Treating chronic pain with opioids is still a challenge due to the risk of severe side effects and dependency, said co-first author Yunguang Qiu, postdoctoral fellow at Cleveland Clinic.

In the study, published in the journal Cell Press, the team focussed on map-



ping out gut metabolites to spot drug targets.

They used AI to decode both compound and protein data "to predict which compound has the best chance of influencing our pain receptors in the right way".

This would be extremely complex and time-consuming with current computational methods.

Using their deep-learning model LISA-CPI (Ligand Image- and receptor's three-dimensional (3D) Structures-Aware framework to predict Compound-Protein Interactions), the team predicted how 369 gut microbial metabolites and 2,308 US FDA-approved drugs

would interact with 13 pain-associated receptors.

Several compounds that could be repurposed to treat pain were identified using the AI framework. Laboratory studies are currently underway to validate these.

The team noted that using the algorithm to predict drugs' potential can lower "the experimental burden researchers must overcome to even come up with a list of candidate drugs for further testing".

Besides drugs for pain management, the tool can also be applied to find drugs and metabolites that treat diseases like Alzheimer's.

The team noted that these foundation models have the potential to enhance "AI technologies to rapidly develop therapeutics for multiple challenging human health issues".

## G-SPARC 2024 concludes with Hyderabad declaration

AGENCIES  
HYDERABAD, OCT 6

The three-day Global South Conference on Infection Prevention, Control, and Antimicrobial Stewardship (G-SPARC) 2024 concluded on Saturday at Shilpakala Vedaika, Madhapur with the unveiling of the Hyderabad Declaration.

Two key white papers focusing on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), State Action Plans in India, Oral Health, and AMR were released at the conference.

The conference, organized by the Infection Control Academy of India (ICAI), University of Hyderabad (UoH), and Pragyaa Sustainable Health Outcomes Foundation (PRASHO), provided a platform for stakeholders from the Global South to collaborate on innovative

strategies to combat AMR and ensure patient safety.

The conference, attended by over 2,000 delegates, highlighted 21 recommendations in its Hyderabad Declaration to tackle AMR in the Global South. These include the call for robust surveillance systems, improved funding for AMR national action plans, and ensuring that antibiotics are not dispensed without a qualified health practitioner's prescription.

Dr R Govind Hari, Co-Chair of G-SPARC 2024, welcomed participants to the closing ceremony, which was graced by prominent figures including Prof GVS Murthy, President of PRASHO, and Gareth Wynn Owen, Deputy High Commissioner of the UK Consulate, Hyderabad.

The conference emphasized the need for strong

collaborations among Global South countries, urging high-income nations to allocate a portion of their GDP to support these efforts. It called for the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to prioritize funding for the Global South through its Anti-Microbial Resistance Multi-Partner Trust Fund and to ensure that 70 per cent of antibiotics used globally belong to the WHO Access Group. During the closing ceremony, three Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed:

PRASHO & Oxford Brookes University - for designing academic programs in public health and improving capacity in WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), IPC (Infection Prevention Control), and AMS (Antimicrobial Stewardship).

## Meningitis: Infants, young kids at higher risk, vaccines may help, say experts

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 6

Infants and young children are at higher risk of meningitis, but vaccines can prevent it in some cases, said experts on World Meningitis Day on Saturday.

World Meningitis Day is observed every year to raise awareness about the deadly and debilitating disease, which strikes quickly and causes serious health harm.

While it affects people of all ages in every part of the world, children are particularly vulnerable.

Over 5 million people are affected by meningitis every year, and around half of all meningitis deaths are in children under 5 years old.

"Meningitis is an inflammation of the protective



membranes (meninges) covering the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by various infectious agents, including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites, as well as non-infectious conditions like cancer or head injuries," Dr Anshu Rohtagi, Senior Neurologist, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, told

IANS. Common symptoms of meningitis include sudden onset of fever, severe headache, stiff neck, nausea or vomiting, sensitivity to light, confusion or difficulty concentrating, sleepiness or difficulty waking up, and skin rash (in some cases). There are several types

of meningitis: bacterial, tubercular, viral, fungal, and parasitic.

Bacterial meningitis is of particular concern. About 1 in 6 people who get this type of meningitis die and 1 in 5 have long-lasting disabilities, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Yet many of these deaths and disabilities are preventable with vaccines.

It ranges from 3 to 6 cases per 100,000 population annually in India, according to a 2023 report.

Dr Deepak Yadav, Consultant, Neurology, Amrita Hospital Faridabad told IANS that "infants and young children are at higher risk" of meningitis.

The disease is also common among individuals with weakened immune systems, and those living in crowded

environments, such as refugee camps.

Vaccines are available for some types of bacterial meningitis, such as the Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine, pneumococcal vaccines, and meningococcal vaccines.

The experts also called for good hygiene practices such as regular handwashing, avoiding sharing utensils, and covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing can help prevent the spread of infections.

"If you suspect meningitis, it's crucial to seek immediate medical attention due to the potential severity of the condition," Rohtagi said.

Yadav called for educating the public about symptoms and the importance of early medical attention to improve outcomes.

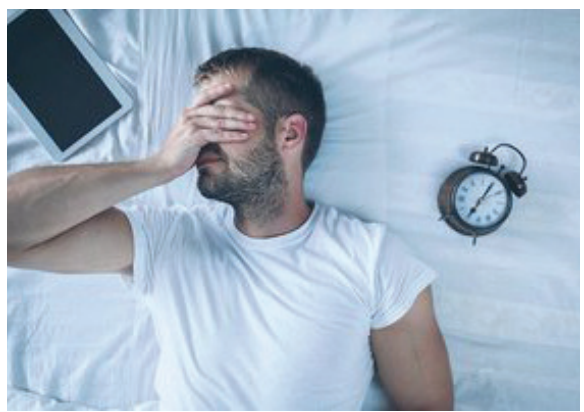
## Unable to sleep properly? Blame PFAs in your blood

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 6

High levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) also known as "forever chemicals" in your blood can make it difficult for you to sleep properly, which can act as a precursor to several diseases, finds a study.

Previous studies have shown that the "forever chemicals" have contaminated water, food, and people through products such as Teflon pans, waterproof clothing, stain-resistant carpets and fabrics, and food packaging. Studies have also shown their role in cancers of the breast, ovary, skin, and uterus in women, among other diseases.

The new research led



by the University of South California (USC) linked higher levels of four specific types of PFAS in the blood with disruptions to a fundamental pillar of health -- sleep.

PFAS enter the body through contact with consumer items and are even ingested with food and

water. They don't break down easily and can persist in the environment for decades.

Sleep is an essential component of good health. A person must sleep 7-8 hours of sleep daily. Prolonged poor sleep may raise chronic health issues, including

diabetes and Alzheimer's disease.

In the study, published in the journal Environmental Advances, the team collected blood samples and information about sleep from 144 participants, ages 19 to 24.

Out of seven types of PFAS examined, four were significantly associated with less sleep or worse quality of sleep -- PFDA, PFHxS, PFOA, and PFOS.

The young adults with higher levels of these toxic chemicals in the blood had 80 fewer minutes of sleep at night. They also had trouble falling asleep, staying asleep, waking up, or feeling tired during waking hours.

All four forever chemicals -- some of which are

associated with cancer and neurological disorders from ADHD to Alzheimer's disease -- are considered "legacy PFAS."

In the study, the team also looked at the overlap between genes affected by the four forever chemicals and genes related to sleep disorders.

Out of 600-plus candidate genes, seven activated by PFAS seemed to influence sleep. This included HSD11B1 -- which helps produce the hormone cortisol that plays an important role in regulating the rhythm of sleep and wakefulness.

Another gene was cathepsin B -- related to cognitive function and memory. Disruption in this gene was linked to Alzheimer's.

## Study shows pattern of brain shrinkage varies between Alzheimer's patients

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 6

Alzheimer's disease patients' brains do not shrink uniformly, the pattern varies between individuals with the neurodegenerative disease, finds a study. Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia and is responsible for 60-70 per cent of dementia cases in people over 65 years of age.

The study by researchers at University College London, UK, and Radboud University in the Netherlands, is the first to analyse patterns of brain shrinkage over time in people with mild memory problems or Alzheimer's disease, and then compare it against a

healthy benchmark.

The results, published in the journal Alzheimer's and Dementia, are based on brain scans of 3,233 MRI brain scans from 1,181 people with Alzheimer's disease or mild memory issues and compared with benchmark brain scan data collected from 58,836 healthy people.

The team searched for the "fingerprints" of disease.

They found that people with mild memory problems whose brains shrank more than normal quickly were increasingly at risk of developing Alzheimer's. No uniformity was found in the way the brain shrank in people with Alzheimer's, the team

Notably, the analysis showed that although most participants, in the beginning, had similar-sized brains, different patterns (progression/regions affected) of brain shrinkage were seen between individuals over time.

According to researchers, the individual variability may also stem from the fact that many people with Alzheimer's have more than one cause of cognitive illness, such as vascular dementia or frontotemporal dementia.

Genetic and environmental factors, such as brain injuries, alcohol consumption, or smoking habits, are also thought to play a part, the team said.

## Survivors turn models in powerful walk to raise breast cancer awareness

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 6

Breast cancer awareness is all about education and empowerment, and with a view to capturing the essence of hope and resilience in the fight against it, Apollo Cancer Centre has hosted an inspiring and vibrant fashion walk in collaboration with Mydream TV USA.

The event, held at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi, was a breast cancer awareness initiative to bring together cancer survivors,

advocates, and supporters, all strutting the runway with purpose and flair.

This event was driven by a shared commitment to advance early detection and foster a supportive environment for breast cancer survivors.

There is a concerning trend in India, where the incidence of breast cancer among young women is on the rise, accounting for 10-20% of all breast cancer cases.

The most common age group presented is between 35 to 40 years. This increase

calls for the imperative need for early detection and screening, as breast cancer in younger women often presents with more aggressive characteristics and at advanced stages, leading to modest outcomes.

Set against a backdrop of colourful lights and uplifting music, the fashion walk transcended the conventional, transforming the catwalk into a platform for awareness and empowerment of breast cancer.

Dr. Mrs. Ramesh Sarin, Senior Consultant, Surgical Oncology, Apollo Cancer Cen-

tres, underscored the importance of early detection and compassionate care, saying, "Breast cancer awareness is all about education and empowerment. With the Fashion Walk, we aim to extend our reach and make a significant impact on public health. Early detection is crucial for improving survival rates, and our new screening technologies promise to revolutionize breast cancer diagnosis, offering women a better chance when the condition is most treatable. This event is more than a gathering; it's a testament to our

progress and a promise to continue this vital work. Together, we weave a tapestry of hope and inspiration, where survivors share their stories and motivate others to prioritize their health."

Dr M S Kanwar, Pulmonologist, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, said, "This initiative is a testament to the resilience of breast cancer warriors and underscores the importance of early detection, which is pivotal in managing cancer outcomes effectively. Our collaboration with Mydream TV USA is vital in disseminating

advanced screening techniques that can vastly improve early diagnosis rates. Seeing survivors take to the runway is a celebration of personal triumph and a powerful call to action for the community. By fostering a supportive environment, we are motivating individuals to take charge of their health and nurture a future where breast cancer is more detectable and treatable at its earliest stages."

Ms. Rashmi Bedi, Co-Chief Executive Officer, Mydream TV USA & Mydream Entertainment LLC, said, "Partnering

with Apollo Cancer Centres helps us bridge gaps and raise crucial awareness about breast cancer.

This collaboration showcases the strength and grace of those who have battled breast cancer, turning the runway into a beacon of empowerment. It's more than a show; it's a celebration of life and resilience, and a call to action for increased awareness and early detection. By sharing these powerful stories, we aim to inspire a larger audience to take proactive steps in their health journeys."



# AI can be as dangerous for world as nuclear weapons: EAM Jaishankar

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 6

External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar on Sunday said that artificial intelligence (AI) will be a profound factor for the world, after nuclear weapons.

Participating in the third edition of the Kauliyala Economic Conclave, organised by the Institute of Economic Growth and the Finance Ministry, on its third and final day, Jaishankar said that AI is going to be the next big thing and countries should be prepared to deal with its after-effects.

On AI, he further said that it is also going to



become a profound factor in the global ecosystem. "AI will be as dangerous for the world as nuclear bombs once were," he observed.

Minister Jaishankar also said that demographics, connectivity, and AI will change the global order. "Globalisation can be weaponised in the next

decade and the world must be cautious about it. Many people around the world blame it for the large number of job losses and other negative effects of the revolution. This issue will remain as long as there is change (globalisation)," he said, noting that the social and political reaction to globalisation has gained momentum in the last decade.

The realities of globalisation inevitably collide with protectionism, he said.

The External Affairs Minister also said that in today's era, the role of the United Nations has become only that of a

spectator. Drawing a comparison with the business world, he said that the United Nations is an old business, which is taking up a lot of space, but is not changing according to the world.

On the ongoing Middle East conflict, he said that today the fight is taking place only for economic corridors, land and sea, but in the future, there will be fights over climate change also. He further highlighted that the Global South is feeling the impacts of these geopolitical tensions more acutely than others, raising concerns about the region's stability.

## Rajanth Singh lauds armed forces for rescuing 2 foreign mountaineers from U'khand

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 6

Hours after the Indian Air Force (IAF) rescued two foreign Alpine mountaineers from Chaukhamba-III Peak on Sunday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hailed forces for the successful operation and their "unwavering commitment" to ensure safety for all risking their lives.

The Union Minister highlighted the armed forces' "unwavering commitment" to ensure the safety of all personnel, irrespective of nationality.

He praised the joint efforts of the National and State Administration and the Armed Forces for the rescue mission while risking their own lives.

In a post on the social

media platform X: Union Minister Singh wrote: "Proud of our Armed Forces for the remarkable rescue & evacuation operation of two women Alpine Mountaineers from the United States and United Kingdom during their expedition to Chaukhamba-III peak."

"The jointness in planning & coordination with National & State Administration, and swiftness in execution while putting their own lives at risk, once again demonstrate our armed forces' unwavering commitment to ensure the safety of all personnel, irrespective of their nationality," his post read.

After over 60 hour long operation, two female Alpine mountaineers, from the US and the UK, were rescued from Chaukhamba-

III peak in Chamoli District, Uttarakhand.

Demonstrating exceptional flying skills at a challenging altitude of 18,500 feet above mean sea level (MSL), the IAF Cheetah pilot ensured the safe retrieval of the mountaineers.

The search was launched after the Chamoli Disaster Management Department received an alert from the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) on Thursday notifying that two mountaineers were stranded at 6,015 metres on Chaukhamba Peak.

The two foreign climbers had obtained permission from the Indian Mountaineering Association for a trekking expedition to Chaukhamba-Three, a peak rising to 6,995 metres.

## CM Adityanath announces complete ban on meat & alcohol during Mahakumbh in Prayagraj

AGENCIES  
PRAYAGRAJ, OCT 6

During the Mahakumbh 2025, the sale of meat and alcohol will be prohibited within the limits of Prayagraj. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced this on Sunday in the presence of representatives from all 13 akhadas. He stated that the Mahakumbh is organised under the guidance of the akhadas, which are the flag bearers of Sanatan Dharma, with the state government providing support. The Chief Minister said that pilgrims from around the world would experience Sanatan culture during the Mahakumbh and that the government is dedicated to respecting this tradition.

While addressing the saint community at the Mahakumbh site, Chief Minister Adityanath underlined that every saint and devotee coming to bathe in the holy Triveni Sangam would witness the

continuous and pure flow of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers.

He assured that efforts are being made to ensure the cleanliness of these sacred rivers, but also stressed the need for cooperation from the saint community. The Chief Minister announced that land would soon be reserved in Prayagraj for the 'samadhi' of saints who pass away during the Mahakumbh.

He stressed that the progress of the Sanatan society is possible under the guidance of saints and called for everyone to contribute to making Mahakumbh 2025 even grander than the previous one in 2019.

In a special mention of the late Narendra Giri Maharaj, the Chief Minister said that construction of a corridor near the Hanuman temple is being carried out. He urged all saints to join the campaign for a clean Mahakumbh, asserting that it would be

appropriate to avoid the use of prohibited plastic.

In response to the saint community's demand for a ban on cow slaughter, the Chief Minister stated that cow slaughter is a crime in Uttar Pradesh, with penalties of up to life imprisonment. The state government operates over 7,000 cow shelters, housing more than 1.4 million cattle. He called for the support of the saint community in promoting cow conservation and suggested that every ashram develop cow protection facilities and engage in cow service.

Prioritising security during the Mahakumbh, the Chief Minister urged all saints to verify the identity of anyone staying in their ashrams before granting permission.

Earlier, amidst Vedic chants and slogans praising Sanatan Dharma, the Chief Minister honoured each revered saint and acharya with traditional shawls.

A short film regarding the management and arrangements for Mahakumbh 2025 was also presented to the saints.

During this dialogue session with akhadas and saints, the representatives expressed that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is a protector of Sanatan Dharma, under whose leadership the community feels honoured.

They noted that he is the first Chief Minister to directly engage with saints regarding the Mahakumbh, listening to their concerns and suggestions. The saints expressed satisfaction with the preparations for Mahakumbh 2025 and affirmed that it would be grander and more divine than previous events.

They collectively thanked Chief Minister Yogi, highlighting the prevalent global tensions and the potential of Mahakumbh 2025 to convey a message of peace to the world.

## Maha Kumbh will be clean, safe and well-organised: Chief Minister

AGENCIES  
PRAYAGRAJ, OCT 6

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday held a review meeting regarding the preparations for Maha Kumbh 2025.

During the meeting, the CM launched the logo, website, and mobile App for the event, listening to suggestions from saints and sages while providing directives to officials.

He set a clear deadline for all preparations, directing that all work must be completed by December 10. He asserted that the Maha Kumbh would set new standards for cleanliness, security, and convenience.

Yogi said, "UP had set up a high standard by successfully organising the Kumbh in 2019, raising the expectations of the public for this event. The fair area, which spanned 3,200 hectares in 2019, will now be expanded to



over 4,000 hectares."

He reiterated that Maha Kumbh represents a significant opportunity to showcase Sanatan Indian culture to the world. To facilitate this, he announced that more than 7,000 buses would be deployed, along with the installation of over 1,50,000 toilets.

He stressed the importance of cleanliness, directing that 10,000 personnel be assigned to enhance sanitation efforts.

The CM said that the Ganga and Yamuna will

remain uninterrupted and clean during Maha Kumbh, with zero discharge from Bijnor to Ballia. He directed the officials to ensure the steel bridge is completed by the first week of December to facilitate easy access to Prayagraj from Kanpur, Lucknow, Barabanki and Ayodhya.

The Mela area will see the establishment of three police lines, three women's police stations and 10 police posts. The CM directed the officials

to create a VVIP corridor from the Airport to the fairgrounds; however, there will be no VIP movements during special bathing festivals.

To enhance security, he directed the establishment of these police facilities within the fair area. He emphasized the need for police officers to respect the faith of every devotee and maintain courteous interactions with all individuals, whether they are Kalpvasis, bathers, devotees, or tourists. The safety and convenience of everyone should be prioritised, and police behaviour must be cooperative.

In terms of security, Yogi highlighted the importance of effective crowd management, fire services, help desks, parking facilities, and CCTV surveillance. He also announced the installation of an anti-drone system and stressed that security models should incorporate AI tools.

## BJP will win in Haryana, says Manoj Tiwari, dismissing Kejriwal's 'double-engine' remarks

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 6

BJP MP Manoj Tiwari on Sunday criticised AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal's remarks on the BJP's "double-engine" government in Haryana, asserting that there is no longer any point in debating the election outcome as the mandate will clearly favour the BJP.

Tiwari's comments came in response to Kejriwal's remarks during AAP's Janta ki Adalat, where the AAP leader claimed that the BJP's double-engine

government had failed in Haryana and across the country.

Kejriwal went on to say that people have now realised that "double-engine" is synonymous with inflation, unemployment, and corruption and would soon lose power in Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand.

Mocking Kejriwal's criticism, Manoj Tiwari stated, "It will be interesting to see how many seats Arvind Kejriwal gets in Haryana. But whoever forms the government, there is no

need for discussion anymore.

The election is over, and the results on October 8 will clearly be in BJP's favour. The government will be formed by us."

Tiwari also referred to exit polls, which reportedly show no seats for AAP in Haryana. He sarcastically added, "AAP and Kejriwal don't deserve even a single seat. Today, they are holding 'Janta ki Adalat,' but no one is showing up. The public wants Kejriwal to first clear his name in court and then speak to us," he added.

## Huge haul of drugs seized from Bhopal factory by NCB, Gujarat ATS

AGENCIES  
GANDHINAGAR, OCT 6

Authorities have seized Mephedrone (MD) drugs valued at Rs 1,814 crore from a factory in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, said Gujarat Minister of State for Home, Harsh Sanghavi, on Sunday.

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Delhi, carried out the successful operation jointly, the Minister said, while praising the law enforcement teams' efforts.

In a post on social media

platform X, Minister Sanghavi congratulated the law enforcement teams, saying, "Kudos to Gujarat ATS and NCB (Ops), Delhi, for a massive win in the fight against drugs! Recently, they raided a factory in Bhopal and seized MD drugs and materials used to manufacture MD, with a staggering total value of Rs 1,814 crore."

The Minister praised the relentless efforts of the law enforcement agencies, describing their work as "truly commendable".

He emphasised the importance of their cooperation in protecting public health and safety,

saying, "This achievement showcases the tireless efforts of our law enforcement agencies in combating drug trafficking and abuse. Their collaborative efforts are crucial in safeguarding the health and security of our society."

Minister Sanghavi also urged the people to continue supporting the fight against drugs, adding, "Let's continue to support the law enforcement agencies in their mission to make India the safest and healthiest nation!"

According to the data released by the Election Commission, in May 2024, as the Lok Sabha elec-

tions concluded, Gujarat accounted for nearly one-third of the total value of drugs seized by the Election Commission (EC).

Between March 1 and May 18, drug seizures across the country amounted to Rs 3,958.85 crore, representing almost 45 per cent of the total value of seized items worth Rs 8,889 crore.

As much as drugs valued at Rs 1,187.8 crore, or nearly 30 per cent, were seized from Gujarat alone.

"Enhanced vigilance against inducements, particularly drugs and psychotropic substances,

has resulted in substantial seizures. Regular reviews, precise data monitoring, and the active involvement of enforcement agencies have significantly boosted the number of drug seizures since March 1," the EC said.

The EC noted that three major operations led to drug seizures valued at Rs 602 crore, Rs 230 crore, and Rs 60 crore during this period.

In a joint operation, the Gujarat ATS, NCB, and the Indian Coast Guard made three high-value drug seizures valued at Rs 892 crore in just three days, EC added.

## BJP's double-engine means inflation, corruption: Arvind Kejriwal in AAP's Janta ki Adalat

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 6

AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the BJP, stating that the party's "double-engine government" only results in "inflation, unemployment, and corruption."

Addressing a large gathering at AAP's Janta ki Adalat, Kejriwal remarked, "The BJP-led double-engine government is on its way out in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir. The double-engine concept has failed nationwide. One engine broke down in June when they secured just 240 seats, and now the second engine will fail in Haryana, J&K, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand."

He went on to say that people have now realised that "double-engine" is synonymous with inflation, unemployment, and corruption.

"As the Delhi elections approach, they will once again ask for a double-engine government. But you should ask them, did the double-engine government in Haryana achieve anything? They governed for 10 years, yet I saw during my campaign that the people don't even want BJP leaders entering their villages," he said.

Kejriwal criticised the BJP's governance in Uttar Pradesh, stating, "They've had a double-engine government in UP for seven years, yet they only managed half the



seats in recent elections. In Manipur, the state has been burning for two years

under their watch. The country is weary of this double-engine system—it

only leads to loot and corruption."

Taking a direct jab at BJP's campaign promises, Kejriwal urged voters to challenge the party's claims.

"They will come to your homes, promising to do everything I did. But if that's the case, then why do we even need them? They've ruled 22 states, yet we've transformed education in Delhi. Ask them, in which state have they improved schools? In Gujarat, where BJP has been in power for over a decade, not a single school is in good condition."

Highlighting the deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi, Kejriwal compared it to the lawlessness of Bombay in

the 1990s.

"Crime in Delhi is skyrocketing. People are afraid to step outside their homes. It has become increasingly challenging for the common man to live safely in this city," he added.

Speaking on women's safety, Kejriwal recalled the reappointment of bus marshals under the AAP government.

"Since the appointment of bus marshals, Many women that they feel much safer on public transport. If someone misbehaves, women can now raise their voices, and marshals immediately intervene, apprehending the offender and handing them over to the police," he said.

## CBI gets clues on how Sandip Ghosh-Ashish Pandey nexus accepted cash through paper leaks

AGENCIES  
KOLKATA, OCT 6

The CBI officials probing the case of financial irregularities at R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital in Kolkata have got specific clues about how the former principal Sandip Ghosh through his house staff Ashish Pandey used to accept cash by leaking question paper to medical students eager to pay money for easy success.

While CBI is conducting parallel probes against Ghosh in both the cases of financial irregularities and the brutal rape and murder of the junior doctor, the

investigating officials have also taken Pandey into custody in the case of financial irregularities. Sources said that through Pandey's interrogation, the officials secured information on how Ghosh was dependent on Pandey's recommendation to decide on the examination success of the medical students. Ghosh and Pandey's bank accounts are under the CBI scanner to get further clues about such illegal transactions. Pandey is among the 10 doctors of R.G. Kar who had been expelled by the College authorities as per a notification issued by the latter on Saturday night.



# Maldives President Muizzu to begin 5-day state visit to India today

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 6

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu is all set to begin his five-day (October 6-10) state visit to India on Sunday following an official invitation extended by his Indian counterpart Droupadi Murmu, an official said.

After assuming office, this will be Muizzu's first bilateral visit, during which he is scheduled to hold high-level meetings with President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior officials of the Indian government.

Earlier this year, the Maldives President attended the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Modi and the Council of Ministers at Rashtrapati Bhavan here on June 9. Before that, he also met



PM Modi on the sidelines of the COP28 summit in Dubai on December 1 last year.

The President's Office (Maldives) stated: "President Dr Muizzu remains committed to enhancing bilateral ties with nations that play a crucial role in the development and growth of the Maldives, ensuring a dynamic and proactive foreign policy for the nation... Discussions

will focus on strengthening bilateral cooperation and further enhancing the longstanding relationship between the two nations."

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that the Maldives President, accompanied by a high-level delegation from his country, will also be visiting Mumbai and Bengaluru, where he will have business engagements.

"The visit signifies the

importance India attaches to its relations with Maldives. It is expected to lend further momentum to cooperation and robust people-to-people ties between the two countries," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal during a weekly media briefing on Friday.

In August, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar visited Maldives on an official three-day visit, his first since assuming office for a second term in June.

Before that, he had visited the strategically significant Indian Ocean archipelago in January 2023 as India maintained that Maldives occupies an important place in New Delhi's vision of 'Neighbourhood First' and 'SAGAR'.

"The visit of President Dr. Muizzu to India after the recent visit of the

External Affairs Minister to the Maldives is testimony to the importance that India attaches to its relations with the Maldives," the MEA said in a statement on Friday.

Even as the relationship between the two countries became strained last year, India remained a key provider of development assistance to the island nation with several projects funded by India benefitting the lives of thousands of people in the country.

Muizzu's visit is considered important as India and Maldives experienced a decline in bilateral relations after he assumed office in 2023 on the plank of his 'India Out' election campaigning. After taking office in November 2023, Muizzu requested India to withdraw its military personnel from his country.

## 'Will win with or without your support': Netanyahu slams Western leaders amid calls for arms embargo

AGENCIES  
JERUSALEM, OCT 6

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has slammed French President Emmanuel Macron, who in a recent radio interview called for halting the supply of weapons to Israel for its operations in Gaza, saying all "civilized" countries should be standing firmly by Israel's side as it fights the forces of "barbarism led by Iran".

Macron and other Western leaders are "now calling for arms embargoes against Israel", Netanyahu said in a recorded video address on Saturday, and asserted that Israel "will win with or without their support". "But their shame will continue long after the war is won," he added.

Netanyahu said that Israel is defending itself on seven fronts against the "enemies of civilization" today.

"Is Iran imposing an arms embargo on Hezbol-



lah, on the Houthis, on Hamas and on its other proxies? Of course not. This axis of terror stands together. But countries who supposedly oppose this terror axis call for an arms embargo on Israel," he said.

Netanyahu also said that the Israeli army has destroyed a significant portion of Hezbollah's missile and rocket capabilities. He said that the Israeli forces are dismantling the Lebanese group's tunnel system near the border. "While the threat has not been fully eliminated, we have shifted the balance of the conflict," he said. "About a month ago, as

we neared the end of dismantling Hamas battalions in Gaza, we began fulfilling the promise I made to the residents of northern Israel."

Since September 23, the Israeli army has intensified its airstrikes against Hezbollah across Lebanon, resulting in significant civilian casualties and displacing residents from many areas. The airstrikes have also targeted and killed key Hezbollah leaders, including the group's secretary-general, Hassan Nasrallah. In addition, Israel has launched what it describes as a "limited" ground operation in Lebanon.

## Islamabad tense as PTI continues protest amid uncertainty over KP CM's whereabouts

AGENCIES  
ISLAMABAD, OCT 6

Pakistan's capital Islamabad remained tense on Sunday as the massive protest by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) entered its second day. Hundreds of PTI supporters and members have also made it clear that they will not call off the protest at the D-Chowk in front of the parliament until receiving further instructions from party leader Imran Khan.

The move comes amid reports of confusion surrounding the whereabouts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

Local media cited that Gandapur's decision to leave the party workers in Islamabad and move to KP House has "raised eyebrows".

"PTI's political committee while criticising the disappearance of the Chief Minister, has warned that there will be 'serious repercussions' if Gandapur is arrested," reported Pakistan's leading daily Dawn.

It added that the com-



mittee has also decided that, in the event of Gandapur's arrest, Azam Swati would lead the protest, and in case of Swati's arrest, a new leader would be named to guide the demonstrators.

PTI leader Shaukat Yousafzai has reportedly confirmed to local media that Gandapur was still at the KP House where he presented demands to the administration, including the immediate release of the party's founder Imran Khan and redressal of PTI's grievances.

"The clashes between the law enforcers and PTI supporters were reported from different areas of the twin cities throughout the day amid fiery state-

ments from government ministers and PTI leaders against each other. Meanwhile, the roads remained blocked with containers and cellular services suspended, resulting in increasing difficulties of the citizens manifolds," reported The Express Tribune.

Despite massive security deployment, a rally led by Gandapur had managed to reach Islamabad, with some workers gathering near prominent locations such as Centaurus Mall and China Chowk.

Earlier on Friday, PTI workers led by Amir Mughal had gathered at D-Chowk, where they cut a cake to celebrate Imran Khan's birthday.

KP government spokesperson Barrister Mohammad Saif claimed that Gandapur had been arrested but later clarified on X that the KP CM had not been formally arrested.

He emphasised that Gandapur was on bail until October 25, warning that any arrest would insult the mandate of the KP people and that the government would have to answer for such "unconstitutional and illegal actions."

Meanwhile, PTI chairman Barrister Gohar Khan indicated that the protest would continue due to the government's crackdown. As he left KP House, he declined to comment when asked about Gandapur's potential arrest.

## South Korean President embarks on three-nation Southeast Asia trip

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, OCT 6

President Yoon Suk Yeol left for a three-nation Southeast Asia trip on Sunday that will include state visits to the Philippines and Singapore and then a trip to Laos for an annual summit led by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

On the first leg of the six-day trip, Yoon will arrive in the Philippines on Sunday where he will meet with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to discuss ways to enhance bilateral relations, especially as this year marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two nations, Yonhap news agency reported.

On Tuesday, Yoon begins a two-day state visit to Singapore, where he will hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Lawrence Wong to deepen economic ties in areas of artificial intelligence, digital, defence and supply chains.

In Singapore, he plans to deliver a speech on South Korea's unification and vision on Wednesday.

On Thursday, Yoon will attend the ASEAN summit, during which South Korea will elevate its relations with the 10-nation regional bloc to a comprehensive strategic partnership, and participate in the ASEAN Plus Three summit involving South Korea, Japan and China.

In a written interview with the



Associated Press, Yoon said he would highlight North Korea's recent disclosure of a nuclear facility, which he believes is aimed at drawing the US' attention ahead of next month's presidential election, while warning of its potential provocations, such as a nuclear test and a long-range missile test.

"At the upcoming ASEAN-related summits, I will stress the importance of denuclearisation of North Korea, which is a prerequisite for realising a free, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region," Yoon said in an interview with AP.

"This will serve to send a clear message that the international com-

munity will never condone North Korea's reckless actions," he said.

Yoon said he would seek to further expand cooperation with ASEAN in a range of areas, such as politics, military exchanges, cybersecurity, the environment and a safety net against financial crises, according to the interview.

Talks have been underway to arrange Yoon's first in-person meeting with Japan's new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba in Laos on the sidelines of the ASEAN summits, a presidential official told reporters.

On Friday, he will participate in the East Asian Summit, a regional security forum, and return home.

## October 7 massacre anniversary: Israel displays 'loot' captured from Hamas terrorists

AGENCIES  
TEL AVIV, OCT 6

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) on Sunday set up a display of the "loot" captured from the Hamas terrorists who raided Israel on October 7 and fighting in the Gaza Strip, with the aim of "exposing them to the world", a day ahead of the anniversary of the murderous massacre.

The display shows vehicles and equipment with which the Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel on October 7, including vans, motorcycles, tractors, uniforms and intelligence findings, and means of warfare including anti-tank missiles, RPG rockets, rockets and missiles, charges, weapons and the group's Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

The exhibition, set up in Zerifin by the Israeli Technology and Logistics Department under the leadership of the loot removal unit, will continue during the upcoming week and will be visited by diplomats, representa-

tives from international research institutes and foreign reporters.

"Since the beginning of the fighting, the loot removal unit confiscated about 70,000 pieces of loot, including about 1,250 anti-tank missiles and RPGs and about 4,500 charges. The unit is mostly made up of reservists and is responsible for collecting the weapons displayed in the exhibition, believing in locating, documenting and collecting spoils from all the combat divisions," the IDF said on Sunday.

On October 7, 2023, Israel endured the deadliest attack on Jewish people in a single day since the Holocaust.

On Simchat Torah, a celebratory holiday of Jewish heritage and pride, Hamas terrorists breached the southern Gaza border and took 1,200 innocent lives.

It is believed that there are still more than 100 hostages in Gaza from more than eight different nations.

## Donald Trump makes defiant return with Musk to failed assassination site

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK, OCT 6

Republican Presidential Candidate Donald Trump made a defiant appearance with techno entrepreneur Elon Musk at the site of the failed assassination calling it a "hallowed place" where he said he was saved by providential intervention.

With elections exactly a month away, Trump, standing behind bullet-proof glass on the podium on Saturday where in July the sniper's bullet hurt his ear, just millimetres away from taking a fatal turn, recalled what he said were "16 harrowing seconds" as he praised the Secret Service agents who pushed him down and surrounded him with their bodies and paid tributes to Corey Comperatore who was killed.

With innuendos, he spoke of dark forces that may have been behind the assassination attempt.

He identified them as aligned with the lobbyists, bureaucrats, and "corrupt special interests" and said they "have slandered me, impeached me, and indicted me, tried to throw me off the ballot, and who

knows maybe even tried to kill me".

His son Eric, who spoke before him, went further alleging, "They tried to kill him. And it's because the Democratic Party, they can't do anything right".

The affiliations of the men involved in the attempts on Trump's life are murky.

The 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, who shot at the Butler rally, was registered as a Republican, but donated to Democratic causes, while the man whose alleged attempt in Florida was thwarted, Ryan Routh, was once registered as a Democrat, said he had voted for Trump in 2016, but turned against him and in March voted in the North Carolina Democratic primary.

A chart about illegal immigration that was on the screen at the side of the podium on July 13, was back as he began his speech on Saturday.

He turned to look at that chart on that day and that head movement moved it away from the bullet's trajectory.

"Oh, I love that, I love that chart," he said.

He pointed to the num-



bers on that chart that showed the low illegal immigration to the US during his term shooting up during the administration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris who is now the Democratic Party candidate against him.

Illegal immigration was a theme he returned to during his speech, blaming Harris for letting in criminals and terrorists through her "open border" policies.

"For 16 harrowing seconds during the gunfire, time stopped as this vicious monster unleashed pure evil from his sniper's perch, not so far away, but by the hand of Providence and the grace of God, that villain did not succeed in his goal". He added, "I will never quit, I will never

bend, I will never break, I will never yield, not even in the face of death itself".

Musk, who has endorsed Trump, goofily hopped onto the stage at the political rally of thousands, an alien milieu for the man with eyes on Mars, and made a speech punctuated by nervous laughter and head bobbing.

He said that "this will be the last election" if there isn't a voter turnout to help Trump win.

A critic of Twitter banning politicians, including Trump for violations of what it asserted were its codes, Musk bought I will never quit, I will never bend, I will never break, I will never yield, not even in the face of death itself. Ait rebranding it as X and reinstated Trump.

He said, "Free speech

is the bedrock of democracy. And if people don't know what's what's going on, if they don't know the truth, how can you, how can you make an informed vote? You must have free speech in order to have democracy."

Musk said the integrity of elections was threatened by actions of some states like California, which last week made it illegal to ask a voter for identification.

Trump, who has said he would appoint Musk to head a panel on government efficiency, called him the "smartest man" and a "very advanced person".

He asked him to achieve his mission of sending people to Mars before 2030 when his term would end if he were elected.

Trump praised Vance and his wife as brilliant and said their children's academic performance was guaranteed.

He said Vance was "great" in last week's debate with Democratic Party Vice Presidential candidate Tim Walz.

But he also ribbed him. After a professional opera singer sang the Catholic hymn, "Ave Maria",

following a moment of silence for Corey Comperatore who was killed by the sniper in July, Trump turned to Vance, "Can you do that Mr Vice President? I don't think JD can do that".

There was hardly anything relating to foreign policy, except Trump's threats to impose high tariffs on some imports, retaliating against those setting high import duties and corporate tax cuts for companies bringing manufacturing back to the US.

Eric Trump mentioned Pakistan getting \$100 billion in US aid and then hiding al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden near its national military academy.

Trump repeated his lines about Biden and Harris being the worst leaders, and this time added their administration's performance in the recent hurricane which killed more than 220 people and caused momentous damage across several states.

To fight US inflation, he said he would look to "liquid gold" which he said the US has more of than Saudi Arabia and Russia.



## Don't let arrogance lead to your downfall: Top investor Vijay Kedia tells IndiGo

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 6

Top investor Vijay Kedia on Sunday slammed IndiGo for frequent delays, poor customer service and rude ground staff, as the low-cost carrier suffered a massive outage leading to flight disruptions and ground services being halted across the nation on Saturday.

In a post on the X social media platform, Kedia told the airline not to "let arrogance lead to your downfall".

"Without improvements, IndiGo will face the consequences of its own decline," he commented.

The technical glitch on Sunday left several air travellers stranded across airports as they were unable



to board IndiGo flights or book tickets, leading to significant delays.

"As a shareholder and frequent flyer, I feel it's

important to express my concerns about IndiGo's recent performance. Earlier, IndiGo was always my first choice. Now, it's my

last. Given an alternative, most passengers would choose you only as a last resort," the ace investor posted.

Addressing the IndiGo management, Kedia mentioned two main areas of dissatisfaction with the airline - frequent delays and poor customer service, "especially at the check-in counters, where staff behaviour is often rude".

"Passengers deserve better, and your team's conduct directly impacts the brand's reputation," said Kedia.

The technical glitch left several passengers no option but to flood social media with complaints.

"It's good to invest in new aircrafts but how about improving the ground services (at Ban-

galore T1 for the last one hour). Additional counters are required, disturbing to see old people suffering. @DGCAIndia please notice," an affected flier posted.

According to Kedia, IndiGo currently holds about 62 per cent of the market share, but competition is growing.

"Air India is catching up, several struggling airlines are reviving, and new entrants are on the way. If these issues aren't addressed, people will shift to other options," he said.

Domestic passenger air traffic in the country rose 6 per cent (year-on-year) to 13.1 million in August. IndiGo continued to dominate the domestic space, increasing its market share by 40 bps to 62.4 per cent.

## Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen to provide EV battery management information

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, OCT 6

The South Korean units of Mercedes-Benz Group AG and Volkswagen Group plan to provide information regarding the battery management system (BMS) of their electric vehicle (EV) models to the local transport safety authority, according to officials on Sunday.

According to a Korea Transportation Safety Authority (KTSA) report submitted to Rep. Ahn Tae-joon of the main opposition Democratic Party, Mercedes-Benz Korea and Volkswagen Group plan to provide data of their BMS to the authority starting in December. The decisions follow heightened public concerns over EV safety, following a massive fire that broke out from a



Mercedes-Benz electric model in early August, which led to the damaging of over 100 cars in an underground apartment parking garage in Incheon, west of Seoul, reports Yonhap news agency.

Hyundai Motor and Kia began providing BMS data to the KTSA in June 2022. In July of the same year, Renault Korea Motors and GM Korea followed suit. BMW Korea started providing the information in June 2023, while Tesla followed suit in October of

last year. BMS monitors battery voltage and temperature to ensure optimal performance of EVs. It also alerts users to any early warning signs of abnormalities. To verify whether a battery is in a safe condition, collecting data from a BMS is required. Imported car brands had previously been reluctant to provide BMS information apparently over fears proprietary battery control technology could be leaked during inspections.

## RBI MPC likely to maintain status quo on policy rates: Experts

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 6

The RBI's monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting from October 7-9 is unlikely to cut the benchmark interest rate and a dovish tone could set the direction moving forward, industry experts said on Sunday.

After the US Fed rate cut, all eyes are on the RBI MPC meeting scheduled to be held on October 7-9 whether it will follow the path shown by the Fed by starting the rate cut cycle or continue to maintain the status quo on both the policy rates and stance.

"We feel that the MPC would continue to maintain status quo on the policy rates, since it would like to start the rate cut cycle once it gets convinced that CPI inflation has been controlled in a relatively durable way and it will not be vulnerable to the food inflation fluctuations intermittently," said Ajit Banerjee, President



and Chief Investment Officer, Shriram Life Insurance Company.

Further, India, as of now, doesn't face the challenge of the GDP growth falling consistently.

The modest GDP growth numbers of 6.7 per cent in Q1 were primarily driven by adverse base effect and a slowdown in government-driven investment expenditures due to general elections in Q1.

The government capex resumed in Q2 and, therefore, GDP growth numbers

would fall in line with RBI projections.

"There would also be reconstitution of the MPC this time with the appointment of three external members, so it seems to be unlikely that we can expect any significant change in this meeting.

That said, a shift to a neutral stance isn't completely ruled out. A dovish tone in the governor's commentary could also set the direction moving forward," Banerjee explained.

Taking into consideration the current domestic growth inflation dynamics, with strong GDP growth and higher near-term inflation projection, the internal members are expected to stay tuned on extended policy rate hold with no urgency of immediate easing to support growth.

MPC has persistently advocated a restrictive policy until inflation aligns durably towards the 4 per cent target.

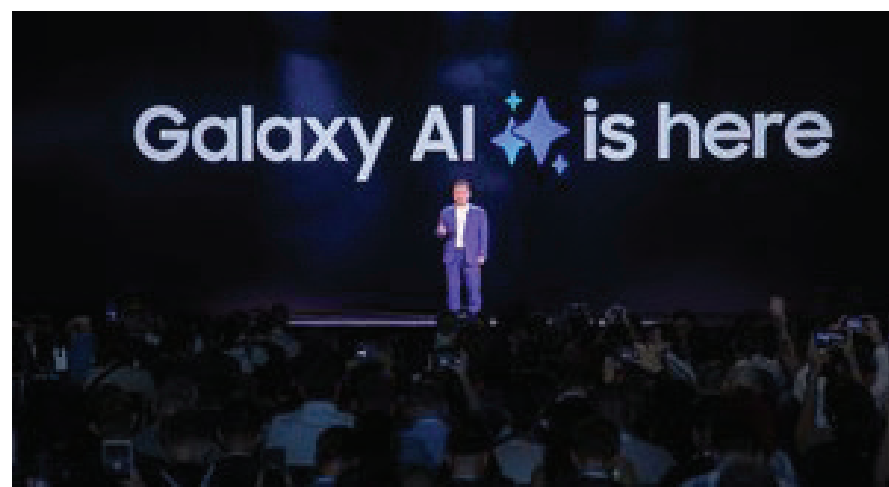
According to Mandar Pitale, Head Treasury, SBM Bank India, the RBI MPC is also expected to deliberate upon the global factors such as growth inflation behaviour in developed economies, their rates actions happened in the immediate past, and the quantum of rate actions expected in the near future amidst uncertain, nonlinear forward guidance on rate cuts coming from them indicating major challenges in store.

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, OCT 6

Samsung Electronics said on Sunday it hosted a technology forum in Silicon Valley in the United States, bringing together experts in artificial intelligence (AI) technology to share the company's key business and research developments in the field.

At the company's '2024 Tech Forum' hosted by Samsung Research America in the Silicon Valley, senior managers from various Samsung business and divisions offered insights into their respective operations and research related to AI, according to the company.

Samsung Electronics Vice Chairman and CEO, Han Jong-hee, attended the event. Company Vice President Kim Dae-hyun, who heads Samsung Research's Global AI Center, gave a lecture on customer experiences unique to Samsung Electronics through the use of AI, reports Yonhap



news agency.

The South Korean tech giant said it plans to continue creating platforms for networking among industry experts to help foster connections and collaboration among skilled professionals in the industry.

Meanwhile, the company has started mass production of its latest industry-leading solid-state drive (SSD) product, optimal for usage in powerful artificial intelligence

personal computers. The "PM9E1" SSD will provide powerful performance and enhanced power efficiency, making it an optimal solution for on-device AI PCs. Key attributes have all been improved compared with its predecessor.

Starting with the PM9E1, Samsung plans to expand its advanced SSD offerings to global PC makers and expects to launch consumer products based on the product in the future

to solidify its market leadership.

In August, the chip maker started mass production of the industry's thinnest mobile DRAM, LPDDR5X DRAM, tailored to on-device artificial intelligence.

The new 12-nanometer (nm)-class 12 gigabyte (GB) and 16GB LPDDR5X DRAM packages are only 0.65 mm high, making them the thinnest LPDDR DRAM in the industry.

## India's real estate sector to become next employment generation hub: Industry

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, OCT 6

The real estate sector in India is the second-largest employer after the agriculture sector and the phenomenal growth with an 18.7 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) makes the sector ripe to become the largest employment generating sector and a hub for young talent, industry leaders said on Saturday.

The Indian real estate industry is witnessing a boom in terms of value and volume with a well-established value chain of developers in residential and commercial real



estate, contractors, consultants such as architects and engineers, investors and so on.

"Further, this 'mother industry' is boosting other

ancillary sectors and also, new-age PropTech startups are also booming with over Rs 40,000 crore invested in them, the real estate sector is

poised to create multiple career opportunities," said Vikas Jain, President-Elect, NAREDCO Maharashtra Next-Gen.

Speaking at a seminar here, Rajesh Doshi, Secretary, NAREDCO Maharashtra, said this sector is not limited to engineers or architects anymore.

"Real estate is for smart, driven individuals who can turn possibilities into opportunities.

With the integration of tech, big data, and 3D modelling, there is a rising demand for skilled professionals like data scientists to forecast industry trends and dynamics," Doshi added.

A recent report said that future outlook for the real estate market remains in the optimistic territory in India.

The Knight Frank-NAREDCO report cited that the 'Current Sentiment Index Score' has moderated to 65 from its all-time high in Q1 2024, indicating a measured outlook among stakeholders. Future sentiment score for this period also recorded a recalibration in Q2 2024 and was recorded at 65.

The 'Future Sentiment Index' has adjusted from 73 in Q1 2024 to 65 in Q2 2024, reflecting a positive yet more conservative outlook for the near term.

## YouTube reinstated all channels, fixing last few videos after bug hit the platform

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 6

Google-owned YouTube said in a latest update that it has reinstated all channels and most videos that were removed due to a technical glitch or a bug.

After a bug incorrectly flagged some channels for spam and removed them, YouTube began working on the fix.

"Happy to report that all channels and most videos incorrectly removed have been reinstated and subscriptions are restored (we're still working on the

last few, bear with us)," YouTube said in a post on X social media platform early on Sunday.

"We know this caused some disruption, and we so appreciate your patience while we sort this out," the company added.

The Google-owned company earlier said that their teams were "still working on reinstating the incorrectly removed channels and access to subscriptions".

"We're sorry for the trouble! Some content like playlists may be delayed,

but it's all coming back. Thanks for your patience while we work on this," the company had mentioned in a post on X.

The YouTube channels were incorrectly removed for "Spam and Deceptive Practices." That included access to all subscriptions (YouTube TV, YouTube Premium, YouTube Music).

The company also mentioned that some YouTube creators might have some content, like playlists, missing. But those will also be restored soon, the company added.

## ADANI UNIVERSITY COMMITTED TO SHAPE NEW INDIA: DR PRITI ADANI

AGENCIES  
AHMEDABAD, OCT 5

Education has an incalculable luminosity and Adani University is committed to shaping a new India by focusing on research and innovation in life sciences, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', Dr Priti Adani, President of Adani University, said on Saturday.

In her address at the first convocation ceremony at its Shantigram campus here, Dr Priti Adani said

that "failures simply help put you on the path to greater progress", urging new graduates to see setbacks as growth opportunities.

Expressing her aspiration for Adani University to achieve global recognition, she called on graduates to be ambassadors of their alma mater and apply their knowledge for societal betterment.

Dr Priti Adani urged the graduates to embrace the changes and challenges of the professional world, emphasising that excel-



lence - rooted in knowledge, tenacity, rationality and intelligence - will set

them apart.

Padma Shri Kartikeya Vikram Sarabhai, one of

the world's leading environmental educators and the Founder and Director

of the Centre for Environment Education (CEE), delivered the convocation address.

Sixty-nine post-graduate students of MBA (infrastructure management), MBA (energy management) and MTech (construction engineering and management) programmes received their degrees, while four students received Gold Medals for their exemplary performance at the convocation, marking the beginning of their journey as proud ambassadors of

Adani University.

"As you embark on this new chapter, it's crucial to reflect on the challenges that await you and the skills you will need to navigate them effectively," said Sarabhai, emphasising the need for inclusivity in development, urging future leaders to engage with communities and collaborate with various stakeholders.

He also addressed the impact of technological disruption, asserting that technology should empower, not exclude.

Professor Ravi P. Singh, Provost, Adani University, said over the past year, "we have reached significant milestones at Adani University".

"Our partnership with professionals from the Adani Group enriches the learning experience by bringing real-world insights into the classroom.

Students have gained hands-on experience through visits to key sites and capstone projects," mentioned Professor Singh.



# International players reach Srinagar to participate in Legends League Cricket

AGENCIES  
SRINAGAR, OCT 6

Retired international cricket players arrived in Srinagar on Sunday to participate in the last leg of Legends League Cricket (LLC) at Bakshi Stadium from October 9, officials said.

After about 40 years, the Kashmir valley will witness seven matches of LLC, including finals during which Indian and International players will be seen in action at Bakshi Stadium from Wednesday.

Most of the players reached Srinagar on Sunday and were given a rousing reception on their



arrival.

Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar will come alive with the excitement of international cricket to host the seven matches of the final leg of the LLC tournament!

Featuring 124 former international stars including Mohammad Kaif, Shikhar

Dhawan, Dinesh Karthik, Harbhajan Singh, Suresh Raina, Chris Gayle, Ross Taylor, Ian Bell amongst many others will be live in action in Kashmir for the first time ever.

Indian and international cricketing stars will be playing cricket in Kashmir

after almost over forty years during the final leg of the LLC.

"Hello Srinagar, Universe Boss in town, book your tickets to see the Universe Boss. Common Srinagar looking for you Guys" former West Indies Captain Chris Gayle in a video message said.

All arrangements have been put in place for the mega cricketing event at the Bakshi Stadium Srinagar, an official said.

He said that this is a huge opportunity for the people of Kashmir to come to the stadium and watch live cricketing action for the first time in almost 40 years.

The league, known for

its thrilling matches and high viewership, attracted a massive audience of 180 million across India during the previous season's 19 matches.

Final Fixtures for Srinagar: October 9, 2024: Hyderabad Team vs Southern Superstars, October 10: India Capitals vs Manipal Tigers, October 11, Konark Surya Odisha vs Gujarat Team, October 12 Qualifier (Position 1 vs Position 2), October 13 Eliminator (Position 3 vs Position 4), October 14 Semi Final (Loser Qualifier vs Eliminator Winner), October 15 2024: REST DAY and on October 16 'FINAL' (Winner Qualifier vs Winner Semis).

## Medvedev beats Arnaldi under roof in Shanghai, doubles matches cancelled due to rain

AGENCIES  
SHANGHAI, OCT 6

Daniil Medvedev dug deep to beat Matteo Arnaldi 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, booking his fourth-round spot at the ATP Masters 1000 event on Sunday.

Medvedev will take on 10th seed Stefanos Tsitsipas or Alexandre Muller next in Shanghai, where he is chasing his first tour-level title since his Rome victory in May 2023.

The 28-year-old Russian is also looking to take further steps towards ATP Finals qualification in China. He is currently fourth in the ATP Live Race To Turin and in a strong position to seal his spot at the prestigious season finale for the sixth consecutive year. Medvedev



broke Arnaldi's serve in the opening game of the match but was unable to maintain that momentum in the early stages. The Italian won six of eight games from 1-3 to clinch the opening set.

Medvedev, however, found a way to grind out a victory with the help of some improved serving and a decisive, clinical return game in the ninth game of the deciding set.

Medvedev and Arnaldi were competing under the roof inside Qizhong Forest Sports City Arena due to rain, which halted play at the Shanghai Masters for a second successive day due to rain.

"There is currently no play to begin on the outside courts until at least 5 p.m. local time (CST) at the ATP Masters 1000 event," the ATP Tour said.

## Jamie Maclaren reflects on first goal for Mohun Bagan SG, says 'It was a great feeling'

AGENCIES  
KOLKATA, OCT 6

Mohun Bagan Super Giant's marquee summer signing Jamie Maclaren opened his account at his new club with a goal in their 3-0 win over Mohammedan SC in the Kolkata derby at the Salt Lake stadium on Saturday.

The 33-year-old is the A-League's all-time leading goalscorer, Australia's first division, and made the switch to the Mariners in the summer. After spending the initial games, still regaining his fitness, the Australian got his first start for the Kolkata giants on Saturday.

"It was a great feeling

(to score my first goal). Last few weeks, I have been building up my fitness, so it was good to start a game.

We have such a good contingent of attacking players. Everyone is contributing goals and assists and that's the beauty of our squad," he added.

It took Maclaren just eight minutes to open the scoring and set the team on their way to a much-needed victory as Mohun Bagan SG were beaten 3-0 in their previous match against Bengaluru FC. He further reflected on the defending ISL Shield winners' first clean sheet of the season.

## 'Trend setter': Gayle picks MS Dhoni as India's most successful captain

AGENCIES  
SRINAGAR, OCT 6

West Indies great Chris Gayle picked legendary cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the most successful captain for India, adding that Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have also done their jobs well as the Indian skippers.

Dhoni captained India in a whopping 200 ODIs and won 110 matches out of those. India lost 74 ODIs under his leadership, while 16 games ended up as a no-result. He had led India to victory in three major International Cricket Council (ICC) trophies: the ICC T20 World Cup in 2007, the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2011, and the ICC Champions Trophy in 2013.

Moreover, Dhoni has played most international matches as captain 332 across all formats. Under Him, India won 178 matches while losing 120. In the IPL, he led Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to five titles.

"Dhoni has been the most successful captain for India. The guy has actually set the trend and overall, Rohit Sharma did his job well and Virat Kohli did his job pretty much," Gayle told IANS.

Speaking about the toughest bowler he faced in his career, Gayle cheekily replied, "The toughest bowler, is he born or is he still alive? I'm not sure. So, all bowlers are tough because every bowler tries and gets a chance to pick a wicket."

"Every baller can actu-



ally just take one ball to get here, but at the same time, it's fun going up against some quality top-class fast bowlers and spinners as well. Every bowler is pretty much tough, but the 'Universe Boss' is just tougher," he added.

Gayle, who is currently playing for Gujarat Giants in the Legends League Cricket, also shared his thoughts for the tourna-

ment and expressed his joy at sharing a dressing room with former India opener Shikhar Dhawan.

"I've been around for a month now and this is my first game. I joined the tournament late, but it was actually good fun last year and a bit of rain interrupted the tournament this year as well. So, I've been a setback with a wicked as well, low scoring as well;

I want to see more entertainment. Hopefully they can work on that but overall, there are some quality retired places.

"So, it's fantastic to actually be a part of this once again and to share a dressing room with the likes of Shikhar Dhawan. Legends League is actually making up movements," he said.

As the LLC enters its third leg, starting Sunday at the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu before moving to Srinagar for the final, Gayle expressed his excitement about visiting Kashmir—a place in India he has never visited before. "I've never been to Srinagar. It's going to be my first time so that's another tick on my list in India, one more state that I'm actually going to visit.

So I'm actually looking forward to Srinagar. Is quite close to Kashmir... I think I'm looking forward to it because I've never been to that side of India. I'm really excited," said Gayle.

The West Indian, who holds the record for the most sixes in IPL history, also expressed his desire to be part of an IPL franchise as a mentor or coach to share his knowledge and experience with young players. "That'd be cool to be in the IPL. I'd like to be among a team, you know; that'll be something cool. I've got loads of experience to share; I've been someone who has been dominant as well. I would love to be a part of it without a doubt to share my knowledge and my experience in the IPL.

## Women's T20 WC: Arundhati's career-best figures of 3-19 helps India beat Pakistan by six wickets

AGENCIES  
DUBAI, OCT 6

Seam-bowling all-rounder Arundhati Reddy picked her career-best figures of 3-19 while opener Shafali Verma top-scored with 32 as India beat Pakistan by six wickets to get their first win of the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday.

On a slow and low pitch, with the venue hosting its 100th T20I game, India put in a much-improved effort with the ball after their 58-run thrashing at the hands of New Zealand by bowling tighter lines and not giving any freebies to Pakistan. Apart from Arundhati's impressive spell, Shreyanka Patil also

shined with 2-12 to set the base for India's win.

At one point, Pakistan were in danger of not reaching three figures, before lower-order contributions, led by Nida Dar's 28, helped them get past 100 in an innings where they played 58 dot balls.

In reply, India were expected to complete the chase in a jiffy, with an eye to boost their net run rate. But with Pakistan being disciplined with their bowling, India could amass only 25/1 in power-play and never showed urgency to take risks to finish the chase quickly. Shafali, Jemimah Rodrigues (23) and Harmanpreet Kaur (29) ensured India's chase, which saw only four boundaries being hit,

and was easily stumped from behind by Richa Ghosh.

Arundhati had her second wicket when her sharp nip-backer trapped Aliya Riaz lbw and could have got another scalp Fatima Sana out if Asha had not dropped the catch. Fatima swept Asha for



and was easily stumped from behind by Richa Ghosh.

Arundhati had her second wicket when her sharp nip-backer trapped Aliya Riaz lbw and could have got another scalp Fatima Sana out if Asha had not dropped the catch. Fatima swept Asha for

back-to-back boundaries before an outside edge on an attempted sweep which was caught by Richa, who showed incredible reflexes by sticking her right hand out to take a stunning one-handed catch.

After Tuba Hassan's top edge was caught at short fine leg off Shreyanka, Nida

and Syeda Aroob Shah stitched a 28-run stand for the eighth wicket. But Arundhati ended the partnership by rattling Nida's off-stump before Nashra Sandhu's unbeaten six, including a lofted four down the ground on the last ball, ensured Pakistan crossed the 100-run mark.

Chasing 106, Shafali survived an lbw decision off Fatima Sana when the replay showed the ball missing stumps. With Pakistan stifling run-flow with tight bowling, the pressure was on India to cut loose in the chase. In an attempt to break free, Smriti Mandhana sliced a wide ball from Sadia Iqbal to point in the fifth over.

After India ended the

power play with just the second instance of them not hitting a boundary inside the six-over phase in women's T20Is, Shafali hit India's first boundary by pulling Tuba for four on the first ball of the eighth over. She then lofted a low-full toss from Tuba for four before slog-sweeping Omaima Sohail for another boundary.

Just as Shafali signalled a shift of gears, she danced down the pitch to loft Omaima but holed out to long-on.

A boundary-less run of almost five overs resulted in Jemimah trying to break free by giving herself room to go inside-out against Fatima but got a thick edge behind.

One brought two for

Fatima as Richa Ghosh went for a cut on her first ball, but gave a thin edge behind.

Harmanpreet took India closer to the win with a lofted shot over cover off a slower ball from Fatima but retired hurt on 29 after losing her balance and injuring her neck.

Sajeevan Sajana finished off the game in style with a lofted four over mid-off to give India its sixth T20 World Cup win over Pakistan.

Brief scores: Pakistan 105/8 (Nida Dar 28; Arundhati Reddy 3-19; Shreyanka Patil 2-12) lost to India 108/4 in 18.5 overs (Shafali Verma 32, Harmanpreet Kaur 29 retired hurt; Fatima Sana 2-23) by six wickets.

## REAL MADRID EXTEND CARVAJAL'S CONTRACT DESPITE ACL INJURY SETBACK

AGENCIES  
MADRID, OCT 6

Less than a day after Dani Carvajal's ACL injury which will rule him out for a long period, Real Madrid have announced a one-year contract extension for the Spaniard which will see him stay at the club till June 30, 2026.

"Real Madrid CF announces that, as planned, it has agreed with Dani Carvajal to extend our player's contract, which will bind him to the club until June 30, 2026. He has been part of the first team since 2013, and in his twelve seasons defending our shirt, he has become a legend of Real Madrid and world football. Real Madrid would like to show him all its support



and affection and wishes him a speedy recovery so that we can enjoy his football on the pitch again as soon as possible," read the statement by Madrid.

The right-back sustained an injury in the final minute of Real Madrid's 2-0 win over Villarreal. Carvajal left screaming in pain, after seemingly over-extending his knee in a collision with Jeremy Pino and was carried off the pitch in tears. The Madrid-

based club announced that he has been diagnosed with a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament, a ruptured external collateral ligament and a ruptured popliteus tendon in his right leg and will have to undergo surgery in the coming days.

"I only have words of gratitude to Real Madrid and our president Florentino Perez. On a day like today, we announced the continuity until 2026,

transmits what is the best club in the world in every way and how in the successes that we share fill us with happiness, but in the hard ones is when the soul is really shown. THANK YOU REAL MADRID, there is a lot of Carvajal left dressed in white," said Carvajal.

Carvajal joined Real Madrid in 2002, when he was just 10 years old and played in all categories of our youth system from Under-12s to Castilla in 2010. Since 2013 he has been a member of the first team, and over the course of the 12 seasons, he has become a legend of Real Madrid and of world football. With Real Madrid, he has won 26 titles in 427 games: six Champions Leagues, five Club World

Cups, five European Super Cups, four La Ligas, two Copa del Reys and four Spanish Super Cups. Carvajal is one of the five players who have managed to win six European Cups. He further cemented his legacy on June 1 when he scored the opening goal of the 2024 Champions League final which saw him win the man of the match on the night when Real Madrid won their fifteenth European Cup.

Carvajal is also a legend of the Spanish national team, with which he has been capped 50 times. With the Spanish shirt, he has won the European Championship, League of Nations, European Championship under-21 and European Championship under-19.

## It is still commendable result, says Rugby India chief Rahul Bose on fourth silver at Asia Rugby 7s Trophy

AGENCIES  
KATHMANDU, OCT 6

As the Indian women's team finished runners-up at the Asia Rugby Sevens Trophy for the fourth time, the Rugby India president said that while the team is disappointed with the result, their silver medal will remain a commendable result for the national side.

In a valiant effort, Indian women lost to the Philippines by a whisker in the final.

Led by Shikha Yadav, the Indian Rugby Women's team played with great skill and lost the final by a small margin with the scoreboard reading 7-5.



"While the team is understandably disappointed after such a close encounter, at not winning gold in this edition of the AREST, it can hold its head high at the way in which it played scintillating, no holds barred 7s rugby. A silver medal remains a commendable result for our national women's

team. While Rugby India will constantly strive to turn silver into gold and earn our stripes amongst the top teams in Asia, a streak of four consecutive silver medals is testimony to the consistency and calibre of the ecosystem," said Rahul Bose, president, Indian Rugby Football Union.



## J&K Judicial Academy's 2 day Refresher Course on "Land Revenue Laws, Land Acquisition Laws" concludes

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 6

The two day refresher course on "Land Revenue Laws, Land Acquisition: Land Reforms and Amendments in Land Acquisition Laws, Procedural Fairness and Natural Justice, Determination of Compensation and Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Affected Persons, Adjudication of Offences & Penalties under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013" organized by the J&K Judicial Academy for District and Session Judges of Jammu province concluded here today.

The event was organized under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Justice Tashi Rabstan, guidance of Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy at J&K Judicial Academy, Janipur, Jammu.

On the first day, the sessions were conducted by Sanjay Parihar, member J&K Special Tribunal, who explained about the Land Revenue Laws and the recent amendments to Land Acquisition Laws. He said that laws are at the heart of the legal framework that governs land disputes, acquisitions, and compensation.



He delved into the critical principles of procedural fairness and natural justice in the context of land acquisition. He added that these principles are essential to ensure that the process of land acquisition is not only legally compliant but also morally and ethically sound. He further discussed the determination of compensation and the rehabilitation and resettlement of affected persons, a key element of the 2013 Act.

On the second day, the sessions were conducted by R.S. Thakur, Senior Advocate, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who provided insights into how courts can ensure that compensation is just, transparent, and compliant with the legal standards. The learned Resource Person also addressed the adjudication of offenses and penalties under the Act, ensuring that there is accountability and that the rights

of affected persons are upheld.

During the valedictory function, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Supreme Court of India, delivered the valedictory address and shared his experience as the judge of Supreme Court of India. He underscored that the laws governing land ownership, acquisition, and compensation such as the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement Act, 2013 are crucial in ensuring that while the state fulfils its developmental goals, the rights of landowners and affected persons are safeguarded.

Justice Kotiswar Singh appreciated the role of Judges in the judiciary saying that as custodians of justice, we must ensure that development and progress do not come at the cost of displacement, disenfranchisement, or the deprivation of funda-

mental rights.

In his special address, Chief Justice, Justice Tashi Rabstan, reiterated that Land revenue laws and procedures have historically played a critical role in shaping both the economic and social landscapes of regions, especially those like Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, where the relationship between land, resources, and people is deeply intertwined. He stated that the Land Revenue Act in Jammu & Kashmir, historically, has functioned as a bulwark protecting the local populace from external pressures.

The Chief Justice underscored that in the aftermath of the abrogation, the judiciary has to play an increasingly active role in ensuring that the changes brought by the new laws do not disproportionately affect the vulnerable sections of society—particularly farmers, rural communities, and tribal

groups. He advised that as judges and officers of the court, our primary responsibility is to ensure that the rights of these communities are not overridden by large-scale developmental projects or national interests, without due consideration of their traditional rights and unique circumstances.

While delivering the welcome address, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, discussed the complexities and challenges associated with Land Revenue laws, particularly in balancing public welfare with the fundamental rights of individuals. He underlined that this program was not only an opportunity to enhance our knowledge but also to ensure that the judgments we deliver are informed, just, and rooted in the principles of natural justice.

Sonia Gupta, Director J&K Judicial Academy, conducted the proceedings for the two day Refresher Course and presented the vote of thanks.

All the sessions remained very interactive during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, difficulties and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the worthy resource person.

## Assembly Elections 2024

### CEO visits counting centre at Ganderbal; inspects arrangements



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 6

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Pandurang K Pole, today visited counting centre at Degree College Ganderbal to assess preparations for the upcoming counting process for twin Assembly Constituencies of the district.

The CEO was briefed by District Election Officer (DEO) Ganderbal, Shyambir, about the extensive preparations being made at the counting centre.

The CEO held detailed discussions with the officers regarding their specific roles and responsibilities. He inspected various critical aspects of counting arrangements including manpower management, law and order, security, welfare logistics, transport and parking management. He also visited and

inspected the facilities put in place for the counting agents, who will play a pivotal role in ensuring accountability during the process. Their comfort and access to the necessary resources have been prioritized, ensuring that they can carry out their duties without hindrance, he observed.

Pole emphasised on transparency, ensuring that both the media and the public stay informed of the election results as they unfold. He further directed the concerned officers to ensure that all necessary measures are implemented in strict accordance with the guidelines of the ECI, for seamless counting with due accuracy, transparency, and adherence to protocols.

While elaborating on the preparations, the DEO

informed that a dedicated Media Centre will be established at the venue under the supervision of the District Information Officer which will serve as a hub for real-time election updates, equipped with a public address system and a LCD screen to provide real time election results during the counting process. Regarding security, Additional Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, provided a detailed briefing on the security measures in place to maintain law and order throughout the counting process.

During his visit, Pole expressed satisfaction with the arrangements and emphasized the importance of seamless coordination and proactive measures to ensure that the counting process is conducted smoothly and efficiently.

## Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums to go paperless: Sidha e-Office training program conducted at Jammu



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 6

A comprehensive hand on e-Office training program was conducted today at the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Mubarak Mandi, here.

"The program was aimed to equip employees of the department with the skills to effectively utilize digital tools and technologies, streamlining workflows and boosting productivity to enable efficient management of e-office services".

The program was

organized on the initiative of Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, in which thirty employees were trained regarding operations, usage and implementation of the e-Office. The e-Office implementation will enable the department to achieve the goal of e-Governance and better delivery of government services.

The training program covered various aspects of e-Office application. The session was conducted by e-Office trainer, Ieshan Sharma of

Information Technology Department (JAKEGA). The trainer delivered training sessions to equip the participating employees with skill and knowledge to operate e-Office smoothly. He cleared difficulties on various levels to make the e-Office fully functional in the Directorate.

This will help the department to go paperless in official works and further improve its efficiency, consistency and effectiveness of government responses which will improve the quality of administration.

## Assembly Election-2024 General Observer, DIG, DEO inspect counting centre at BHSS Rajouri



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 6

The General Observer, Tikam Chand Bohra in the company of DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range Tejinder Singh, District Election Officer (DEO) Rajouri Abhishek Sharma and SSP Rajouri Randeep Kumar, conducted a thorough inspection of the Counting Centre established at Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Rajouri. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the preparedness of the facility to ensure a seamless and transparent counting process for all five Assembly constituencies in the district.

During the inspection, the General Observer and the officials meticulously reviewed the security arrangements at the Counting Centre, with a focus on entry and exit points. It was emphasized that these must strictly adhere to the guidelines set by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The team also inspected the layout of the counting halls, ensuring that the security and logistical arrangements are in place to facilitate an error-free counting process.

DEO provided a detailed briefing on the preparations. He highlighted the establishment

of dedicated counting halls for each constituency and the robust arrangements made to ensure transparency and efficiency, such as 24x7 CCTV surveillance, an uninterrupted power supply, and sufficient deployment of personnel to oversee the counting process.

DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range Tejinder Singh and SSP Rajouri Randeep Kumar assured that stringent security measures would be enforced throughout the counting process. A comprehensive security plan has been devised to ensure the safety of the premises, with additional forces to be deployed for the smooth conduct of the event. The officials also inspected the Media Centre set up within the premises, which will provide real-time updates on the counting process. The Media Centre has been equipped with high-speed internet, live vote tallying screens, and dedicated areas for media persons to report on developments.

The General Observer expressed satisfaction with the arrangements and called for close coordination among all officials to ensure a smooth, transparent counting process in strict adherence to ECI guidelines.

## Assembly Elections 2024

### Randomization of Counting Staff for 8 ACs of Srinagar District held



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR OCTOBER 6

In connection with Counting of Votes scheduled on October 08 for General Election to Legislative Assembly, the Randomization of Counting Staff for Eight Assembly Constituencies of District Srinagar was successfully conducted as per the guidelines of Election Commission of India (ECI) at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

The Randomization of Counting Staff was held under the supervising of District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat in presence of Election Observers designated by ECI for all the 8 Assembly Constituencies of the Srinagar District.

During the Randomization, Counting Halls were allocated to the Counting Staff deployed at SKICC for Counting of votes for



8 Assembly segments of Srinagar District.

On the occasion, the designated Officials were classified into teams, each comprising Counting Supervisors, Counting Assistants, and Counting Micro Observers assigned to their respective Counting Halls.

The third and final Randomisation of Counting Staff will take place tomorrow morning, during which Counting Tables will be assigned to the Officials designated for Counting of Votes.

The Randomization of Counting Staff was facilitated by dedicated software to ensure transparent, free and fair elections devoid of human interference.

The Randomization process was also video recorded as per the laid guidelines of the Election Commission of India.

Deputy DEO Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Nodal Officer ETPBS, Syed Mujaddid and other Officers of District Election Authority were also present on the occasion.

## Assembly Election-2024: Second randomization of counting staff held in Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 6

The second randomization of counting staff for the Assembly Constituencies was successfully conducted today in preparation for the counting scheduled on October 8, 2024. The process was carried out under the supervision of District Election Officer Udhampur, Saloni Rai in presence of Counting Observers Dr. Gagan and Arun Prakash Sharma along with the Returning Officers, here at Mini Conference Hall DC



Office Complex, Udhampur.

The randomization was conducted using dedicated software, strictly adhering to the guidelines of the Election Commission of India, ensuring fairness and impartiality in the selection of counting personnel. To maintain complete

transparency, the video of the entire procedure was recorded.

The DEO highlighted that adequate arrangements have been made to equip the staff with the necessary knowledge and orientation to ensure the smooth and efficient conduct of the counting process.

## DEO Reasi holds meeting with contesting candidates & political representatives ahead of counting process

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, OCTOBER 6

The District Election Officer (DEO) Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan today held a meeting with contesting candidates and representatives of political parties of the district Reasi at DC office complex in order to discuss the arrangements of counting of votes which is going to take place on 8th October.

DEO briefed them

about the whole layout process of counting and assured them that the process will be smooth and transparent as per ECI guidelines. He also took suggestions and queries from the representatives and assured them of full cooperation.

DEO urges them to cooperate and maintain order and discipline during the counting process. Instructions were given to them that no

entry in premises will be allowed without proper identity cards.

He urged them to exhibit the highest standards of conduct in the electoral process and strictly adhere to the norms especially on the Model Code of Conduct.

The meeting was also attended by the RO AC-57 Anshumali Sharma, RO AC-58 Piyush Dhotra, RO AC-56 Mazahir Hussain, Dy. DEO Rakesh Kumar and other officials.