

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

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

**Watch out for dengue warning signs!**

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

- Severe and continuous abdominal pain
- Diarrhea
- Persistent vomiting
- A sharp body temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or stool
- Redness

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## Poll Results Ready: Candidates keep fingers crossed as night-long wait begins



J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 7

Finally, the wait is over for the election results that would be declared tomorrow for 90 seats of J&K Assembly. Counting will begin at 25 locations across the UT amid multi-layered security cover even as candidates maintain the night long wait will be filled with a little bit of fear and an increase in the heart rate.

J&K would see its own government after a decade as the last Assembly polls were held in 2014. The elections were also first without Article 370 and without Ladakh as J&K's party. On August 5, 2019, New Delhi sliced the erstwhile State into two halves—J&K and Ladakh UTs. J&K's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)

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## Exit Polls: Is J&K Heading Towards Grand Alliance?

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 7

While the majority of exit polls have predicted hung assembly in Jammu and Kashmir, there is every possibility of witnessing a grand alliance in the Union Territory for the formation of next dispensation here as the leaders from major political parties have kept options open for the coalition.

According to the news agency, the pollsters here

have predicted a hung assembly, giving an edge to the National Conference-Indian National Congress alliance.

However, if the exit polls are to be believed, the alliance would be short of a couple of seats for the formation of the next dispensation in Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the pollsters, the NC-Congress alliance would get around 40 seats and would need eight more seats to achieve

the target of majority and form the next government in Jammu and Kashmir.

Amidst the exit poll, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President, Mehbooba Mufti stated that Jammu and Kashmir will never have a BJP government and expressed readiness to support the formation of any "secular Government" in J&K to keep the saffron party out of power.

"There will be a secular Government in J&K and whatever Government is

formed here, PDP will be an important factor," she had told reporters.

Moreover, National Conference (NC) President, Dr Farooq Abdullah welcomed the statement, saying that what's wrong in having a government in alliance with PDP, saying that "we can be rivals in elections, but if the aim is same that we want the good of the people, I will have no objection and I assure the Congress will

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## J&K Assembly Elections 2024: Careers of Half Dozen Veteran Politicians Hang in Balance as results ready

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 7

As the counting of votes is scheduled on Tuesday-October 08, the political careers of more than half a dozen veteran political leaders are at a critical juncture. Their experience and electoral history may give them an edge, but with new challenges emerging, the results could signal a shift in Jammu and Kashmir's political landscape.

As per the details available with news agency, Jammu and Kashmir is eagerly awaiting the results of its 2024 Assembly elections, and several veteran political figures find themselves at a crossroads. These elections, held after a decade-long hiatus, have pitted seasoned politicians—many of whom are hoping for a "hat-trick" or even a fourth and fifth consecutive win—against new faces eager to reshape the political

landscape. The political careers of over half a dozen former MLAs and ministers are now on the line, as their long-standing credibility hangs in the balance.

Among those seeking a third consecutive victory is the National Conference, a two-time MLA from the Marh constituency. Joining him in this bid are other notable figures, such as former ministers Sham Lal Sharma (Jammu North),

Surjit Singh (Samba), and Raman Bhalla (Gandhinagar), all of whom have held their seats for two terms and hope to solidify their political legacy.

However, the stakes are even higher for political veterans like Tara Chand, the former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, who is eyeing his fourth win from the Chhamb constituency. Chand, who has represented Chhamb

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## LG releases book titled 'Handbook on Water Supply', authored by G.S Jha & Muzamil Rafiqui

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 07

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha released a book titled 'Handbook on Water Supply', authored by Sh G.S Jha and Sh Muzamil Rafiqui, at a function in Raj Bhawan today.

In his address, the Lt Governor extended his felicitations to the authors for giving a detailed account on planning, operation and maintenance of water supply schemes, and suggesting steps for effective water management, through their book.

He said the 'Handbook on Water Supply' also reflected the new and innovative approaches adopted by the UT Administration to ensure the availability of tap water connections in remote and difficult terrain areas of Jammu Kashmir.

"Water security for all has been one of the prime objectives of the J&K administration. In the last four years, we have ensured augmentation of infrastructure facilities so that every citizen has access to basic services and livable environment," the Lt Governor said.

Observing that the aim



of UT Administration is to develop cities and villages as centre of prosperity which provides adequate resources to fulfill the aspiration of common man, the Lt Governor said the administration has been successful in achieving these goals to a large extent.

"In the last four years, work has been done to generate new hope by ending discrimination and injustice. Everyone is provided with equal opportunity to live a joyful and prosperous life," the Lt Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor called upon the people of Jammu Kashmir to complement government's efforts in realising

the vision of 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' and also work together in protection and preservation of water resources.

At a time when water resources are facing the challenges of climate change, it is the responsibility of every citizen to ensure that ponds, lakes, rivers and other water bodies are clean and safe, he said.

The Lt Governor entrusted upon the engineers and officials of Jal Shakti Department to pay special attention to water management through modern technological tools.

He also lauded the significant contribution

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## Security forces recover suspected IED, rusted mine in Rajouri and Samba



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 7

The security forces on Monday recovered a suspected Improvised Explosive Device (IED), a rusted anti-tank mine and a mortar shell in Rajouri and Samba districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources said the security forces recovered one suspected IED along a link road in Saranoo village during a routine patrol.

They said that the bomb disposal squad was

rushed to the spot and it was defused.

In a separate incident, security personnel said a rusted anti-tank mine and mortar shell were defused after they were found by villagers at separate places near Regal Post.

The anti-tank mine and mortar shell were defused after the villagers informed the nearby BSF post and in the Bari Brahmana area respectively.

The explosive devices were defused on the spot, they added.

## Modi-Muizzu talks: India announces major currency swap arrangement to help cash-strapped Maldives

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that India and Maldives have agreed to give strategic depth to their ties with adoption of a Vision for Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership, even as he announced roll over of USD 100 million treasury bills for one year, and USD 400 million and Rs 30 billion as a bilateral currency swap arrangement for the cash-strapped nation.

After holding bilateral talks with visiting Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu, PM Modi said the two sides have decided to hold talks on a Free Trade Agreement, and are also focusing on digital con-



nectivity.

India also launched the RuPay Card in Maldives and PM Modi said that the two sides will try and link up with the United Payments Interface, the Indian digital payments system.

He said the two sides are in talks to open a new Indian consulate in Addu

city in Maldives, and a new Maldives consulate in Bengaluru, to strengthen people to people links.

PM Modi said the two sides have also held talks on infrastructure development, according to the requirements of Maldives, in areas including ports, airports, housing, hospitals, roads, sports faci-

ties, schools and water and sewerage.

India would also focus on the timely completion of the flagship Greater Malé Connectivity Project (GMCP), and undertake a feasibility study to connect the islands of Thilafushi and Giraavaru as an extension.

Both sides would also collaborate in the development of a state-of-the-art commercial port at Thilafushi island in order to de-congest the Malé port and provide enhanced cargo handling capacity at Thilafushi.

PM Modi said that India and Maldives have age-old relations and that Maldives is India's closest and friendly neighbour. PM Modi said that India

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## Absolute challenges for new government in J&K: Farooq Abdullah

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 7

National Conference President Farooq Abdullah on Monday said there would be absolute challenges for the new government in Jammu and Kashmir.

Farooq said this while replying to a question from media persons about what would be the challenges for the new government in Jammu and Kashmir.

"There are absolute and so many challenges", Farooq told media persons.

The NC President said that in the last ten years, the state has gone far below what it was before.



Those challenges have to be met and that has to be done.

"I hope Delhi is going to be positive about it even if we are opposite to them", Farooq said and added, "I hope they will realise".

Jammu and Kashmir is a vital state and

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Put Govt formation on hold till Centre restores Statehood to J&K: Er Rashid's suggestion to Parties ahead of Poll Results

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 07

Awami Ittehad Party chief and the North Kashmir Member Parliament Er Rashid Monday suggested the political parties and independents who would emerge victorious tomorrow not to form the government in J&K until the Government of India restores the Statehood.

He said AIP would extend full support if all get united on this advice. "I have a humble suggestion to all political parties and independent candidates who would win elections tomorrow to put



government formation on hold till Centre restores Statehood to J&K," the North Kashmir MP said addressing a press conference in Srinagar, as per news agency.

"If all agree to my suggestion, AIP would also extend full support to this proposal." Er Rashid also

said that age-old darbar move practice should be resumed for the larger status of people of both regions.

"The administration claims that it has saved the J & K exchequer from a huge burden by abolishing the Darbar Move practice but the fact remains that people of both regions are suffering. We demand this practice should be resumed," he said.

The North Kashmir MP also said that he was in Delhi a few days ago where he was J&K House Delhi being exclusively kept reserved for the people of Ladakh UT.

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## BJP will extend central rule if failed to form govt in J&K: Omar Abdullah

AGENCIES  
SRINAGAR, OCT 7

National Conference Vice-President Omar Abdullah on Monday alleged the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would like nothing more than to extend central rule if they are not in a position to form a government in Jammu and Kashmir.

The NC leader was reacting to the statement made by the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) Chief Abdul Rashid Sheikh popularly known as Engineer Rashid, who during a press conference during the day had said whosoever will get the majority



should not form the government until the statehood is restored in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The man goes to Delhi for 24 hours and comes back to play straight into the hands of the BJP," Omar posted on X (formerly twitter).

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## CS shows concern over unfilled seats in certain professional courses

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 07

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday chaired a meeting of Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE) during which he emphasised on optimal utilization of available slots of admissions in various professional courses including Engineering and B.Ed being offered by the colleges in the UT.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Commissioner Secretary, IT; Secretary H&ME; Secretary, SDD; Secretary, ARI & Trainings; Chairperson, BOPEE and other concerned officers.



While taking note of the admission process by the professional board, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the concerned to look into the causes that result in less uptake of certain courses being offered by the professional colleges here. He called for carrying out a detailed analysis of the reasons behind this phenomenon

and addressing the same at an earliest. He also suggested to list out the courses and colleges facing this situation and look into the position of faculty, infrastructure and other ancillary facilities available for imparting training in these specific trades.

Dulloo urged the higher education department

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## Assembly Elections-2024 One-Day workshop for Counting Supervisors, Assistants & Micro Observers held at Ganderbal



JNEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 6

In preparation for the upcoming vote counting process for the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly 2024, a one-day workshop was organized today for Counting Supervisors, Counting Assistants, and Micro Observers.

The event was presided over by the General Election Observer for District Ganderbal, R. Lakshmanan, who was joined by the Counting Observer, Sharmila C and the District Election Officer (DEO) Shyambir, held in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

The workshop was designed to ensure that all officials involved in the

counting process are thoroughly trained and familiar with their roles and responsibilities to facilitate a smooth and transparent counting process.

During the workshop, detailed instructions were provided to the participants on various aspects of the counting procedure, including handling of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips, and maintaining the highest standards of accuracy and transparency throughout the counting process.

The General Observer emphasized on the strict adherence to the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI) and on the importance of seamless coordination between different

teams. He highlighted the significance of this training for ensuring the credibility of the election process and urged all officials to carry out their duties with the utmost diligence.

The DEO reiterated the importance of the counting process and assured that all necessary arrangements are in place to ensure its smooth conduct.

The participants were given hands-on demonstrations on various procedures and were encouraged to ask questions to clarify any doubts.

This workshop marks a key step in the final stages of election preparations in District Ganderbal ahead of the counting of votes for the two Assembly Constituencies in the district.

## Skill Development Department organizes one day Capacity Building Program on Mission YUVA



JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 7

Directorate of Skill Development Department, J&K under the supervision of O.P. Bhagat, Director, Skill Development Department, J&K organized one day Capacity Building Program on Mission YUVA (Yuva Udhyaami Vikas Abhiyaan) at Government Polytechnic for women, Jammu. The program aims at sensitising all Nodal/Coordinating officers on purpose, components and monitoring of Mission YUVA in the UT of J&K.

All the Hols/Principals/Superintendents of various Polytechnics/ITIs of Jammu Division participated in this program.

The Director gave an

overview of Mission YUVA explaining its Mission and vision statement. He emphasized on creating a conducive environment where the youth can feel confident to take risks, innovate and build businesses.

The key resource persons of the event were Narendar Abrol, from SIBDI, Ajay Thapa from Govt. Polytechnic, Jammu, Dr.Vinod Kumar from JKEDI and Kanav Sharma from NABARD.

They elucidated the various components of Mission YUVA - Eco-System Creation, Institutional Business support Mechanism, Enterprise Development, Creating Business Plans, DPR and Credit Enabling for easy access to entrepreneurs.

## Final round of Training held for Counting Supervisors, Assistants & Micro-Observers at Shopian



JNEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 07

The District Election Office Shopian today conducted final round of training programme for Counting Supervisors, Counting Assistants and Micro-Observers at Mini Secretariat Shopian to acquaint them about counting procedures for conducting counting of votes smoothly on October, 08 as per ECI guidelines. District Election Officer (DEO) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar also attended the training session and addressed the staff deployed for counting duties.

DEO addressed the staff and called for strict adherence to the rules and procedures during the counting process while performing the duties with integrity and fairness.

He also emphasized on maintaining discipline and to uphold complete privacy on the day of counting.

District Level Master Trainers provided detailed training sessions to prepare skilled and competent manpower for the counting of votes for two Assembly Constituencies of 36-Zainapora and 37-Shopian.

During the sessions of training, the participants were provided procedural know-how for the smooth execution of the counting process including practical demonstration of handling of EVM, counting procedures, adhering to protocols of ECI.

RO Shopian, Shakoor Ahmad; RO Zainapora, Nisar Ahmad; Dy.DEO Jahanger Ahmad and other officers were also present on the occasion.

## JDI Kashmir mourns Bilal Koul's demise

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 7

The Joint Directorate of Information (JDI) Kashmir today mourned the untimely passing away of its senior official, Mr. Bilal Ahmad Koul who passed away today morning after brief illness.

The official was laid to rest in his ancestral graveyard, where hundreds of his colleagues, well wisher mourners participated in the Nimaz-e-Jinaza and bade him a tearful send off. Joint Director Information Kashmir, Mohammad Aslam along with Deputy Director Information (PR) Kashmir, Dr. Ahsanul Haq Chishti and other officials of the department attend-

ed the Nimaz i Jinaza of Mr. Koul and later visited the residence of the deceased colleague and expressed their deep sympathies with the bereaved family. Bilal Ahmad, through his dedication, honesty and professionalism, had earned deep respect and admiration among his colleagues as well as officers of the department. The loss of the official will be deeply felt throughout the organization, his colleagues remarked with sobs while attending his last rites.

Meanwhile the Rasm i Chaharum of the deceased shall be held on Thursday, October 10 at 10 AM at his ancestral graveyard at Riyazat Taing Khanyar.

## Assembly Elections-2024 All arrangements for smooth & hassle-free counting process finalised at Shopian

DEO visits Counting halls, Media Centre



JNEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 7

The District Election Office, Shopian has made all required and proper arrangements as per ECI guidelines to ensure smooth and hassle free counting process for the Zainapora and Shopian Assembly Constituencies.

The counting halls set up for each Assembly Constituency of the district at Mini Secretariat, Shopian are equipped with necessary facilities along with deployment of adequate staff for the purpose of the

counting process. 10 counting counters have been established in each Assembly Constituency, manned by Counting Supervisors, Assistants and Micro observers to ensure smooth and timely completion of the counting besides separate counters for postal ballots and ETPBS have also been set up. The entire counting process shall be observed by Counting Observers appointed by ECI.

The CCTVs and Videography provisions have also been made available along with a sufficient number

Displays. Like the voting day updates, the administration shall also telecast round wise results of the counting process through Municipal Council screens across the town for the information of the general public.

Proper arrangements for seating have been made for contesting candidates and counting agents.

To see that all arrangements are in place, DEO Shopian visited the counting halls and Media Centre and took review of arrangements.

## GDC Ramgarh organizes a documentary screening on the "Life of Mahatma Gandhi"

JNEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, OCTOBER 7

IQAC of GDC Ramgarh organised a documentary screening on the "Life of Mahatma Gandhi" in honor of the Mahatma Gandhi's enduring legacy. The event was organized to mark the 155th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, which holds great significance in promoting Gandhian values among young minds.

The event was held under the able guidance and supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College. Speaking on the occasion she highlighted the importance of introducing students to historical figures like Mahatma Gandhi, from whose life the students can learn about ideals of peace, equality, non-violence & justice.

Dr. Aditi Khajuria, convener IQAC, spoke on the impact of Gandhiji on



Freedom Struggle of India. The documentary delved into pivotal moments of Gandhiji's life from his role in the Indian Freedom struggle to his philosophy of Truth and Non-violence

which has inspired millions not only in India but all over the world.

The documentary screening was attended by all faculty members and students of the college.

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## Assembly Election-2024 DEO Udhampur holds meeting with contesting candidates, political representatives ahead of counting process



JNEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 7

In preparation for the upcoming counting of votes scheduled for October 8th, the District Election Officer, Udhampur, Saloni Rai along with SSP Amod Ashok Nagpure held a key meeting with

contesting candidates and representatives of various political parties from District Udhampur.

During the meeting, DEO Udhampur briefed the candidates as well as representatives on the detailed layout and procedural aspects of the counting process, empha-

law & order on the day of counting, emphasizing that no entry into the premises will be permitted without valid identity cards. The DEO called upon the candidates and party representatives to cooperate fully and ensure a fair and peaceful counting process.

## Assembly Election-2024 Final Randomisation of Counting Staff, Micro Observers held at Kathua

JNEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, OCTOBER 7

The second and final randomisation of counting staff and micro observers was conducted today at the Video Conferencing Room, DC Office Complex, Kathua, under the supervision of District Election Officer, Dr. Rakesh Minhas.

The process took place in the presence of Counting Observers and Returning Officers from all six assembly segments of Kathua district.

The randomisation, which included assigning Counting Supervisors, Counting Assistants, and Micro Observers, was car-



ried out using the dedicated software provided by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Jammu & Kashmir. The process covered 83 tables for counting EVM votes and 6 tables for postal ballots. Additionally, a reserve pool of 54 staff members was identified to address any contingencies that may arise during the counting process. The counting of votes is scheduled to be held on

October 8 in GDC Kathua for all six assembly segments of Kathua district. The Counting Observers for 63-Bani Aisha Masrat Khanam, 64-Billawar, Mahendra Kumar Khinchi, 65-Basohli Md. Ejtaba Hussain, 66-Jasrota Sunil Kumar Yadav, 67-Kathua (SC) Dorje Chhering Negi and 68-Hiranagar Navneet Kumar along with Returning Officers were also present.

## Assembly Election-2024 DEO Kishtwar interacts with Media Persons on reporting guidelines for Counting Day



JNEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 7

District Election Officer (DEO) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan held an interactive session with media persons, sensitizing them on the Do's and Don'ts of reporting during the upcoming Counting Day.

He emphasized the importance of adhering to ethical standards and maintaining transparency in journalism to ensure that accurate and authentic election results are conveyed to the public in a real time manner.

The DEO stressed that media professionals must strictly follow all guidelines issued by ECI in letter and spirit to pre-

serve the integrity of the election process.

Shavan also informed that a dedicated Media Cell has been established within the premises of the Counting Venue. The cell will provide real-time updates on election results, Assembly Constituency-wise, ensuring the public stays informed through various media channels.

Regarding Counting Day preparations, the DEO assured that all arrangements have been made for the smooth counting of votes across Kishtwar's three Assembly Constituencies. He briefed the media about the comprehensive logistics set up at Kendriya Vidyalaya,

including proper seating arrangements, a public announcement system, and a robust three-tier security system in line with election guidelines.

He further urged all candidates and their agents to gracefully accept the people's verdict with smiling faces in consonance with the slogan of the District Election Authority "Catch the Smile" whether the result is in their favor or not.

He further advised the counting staff to maintain a positive demeanor while performing their duties, reinforcing the message of professionalism and composure throughout the day and maintaining complete neutrality.



## Assembly Election-2024

### ADC reviews Law and Order management ahead of Counting Day in Rajouri



JNEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 7

On the directions of the District Election Officer (DEO) Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, a comprehensive review meeting regarding the management of law and order for the upcoming counting day was convened today at Dak Bungalaw, Rajouri.

The meeting was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Rajouri, Rajiv Khajuria which was attended by Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Rajouri Bikram Kumar, all Executive Magistrates along with their police counterparts.

The primary focus of the meeting was to ensure a robust plan for maintaining peace and order during the counting of votes for the General Election to the Legislative Assembly 2024.

ADC Rajiv Khajuria, while addressing the gathering, emphasized the critical role of Executive Magistrates and their respective police teams in ensuring the smooth conduct of counting day activities.

ASP Bikram Kumar further elaborated on the security arrangements, highlighting the need for strict vigilance and proactive measures. He also reviewed the security arrangements at counting centers and surrounding areas, stressing the need for additional security personnel at vulnerable points.

He further emphasized strict enforcement of Section 164 of BNSS, 2023 prohibiting the assembly of more than five people near the counting centers, to prevent any gathering that could disrupt the process.

All Executive Magis-

trates were directed to be present at their designated stations along with their police counterparts throughout the counting process.

Special emphasis was laid on maintaining law and order around the counting centers and ensuring that no untoward incident occurs. The entry and exit of authorized personnel within the counting centers will be closely monitored. All officials were directed to ensure that only individuals with valid passes are allowed inside the premises.

Concluding the meeting, ADC Rajiv Khajuria and ASP Bikram Kumar expressed confidence that with meticulous planning and cooperation between the magistrates and police officers, the counting day proceedings would be conducted without any disruption.

## 57 students of MAM College, GDC Kathua complete summer internship at JKEDI

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 7

A fresh batch of 57 students from Government MAM College, Jammu and Government Degree College (GDC), Kathua completed their mandatory summer internship at Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI).

These students underwent their 10-day (60 hours) Summer Internship which started on 26 September 2024, 2024 here at the Bari-Brahmana campus of the institute JKEDI.

The interns were briefed about the role and functioning of various verticals/sections of JKEDI. They were made aware of the various activities undertaken by JKEDI including Entrepreneurship Awareness Programs (EAPs), Entrepreneurship Orientation Programs and Entrepreneurship Development Programs (EOPs and EDPs) to promote entrepreneur-

ship as a career choice among unemployed youth of J&K.

An idea pitching workshop and business simulations were held for the interns wherein real-time exposure to running a successful business venture was provided to them. These activities helped the interns to gain insight with respect to the various challenges faced by an entrepreneur and the ways to overcome them.

During the valediction ceremony, Director JKEDI, Rajinder Kumar Sharma discussed the importance of entrepreneurship and innovation. He asked the interns to acquire vocational training skills to be job-oriented in today's competitive environment.

The internship program was conducted by the Centre for New Enterprise Creation (CNEC), a program vertical of JKEDI under the supervision of Dr. Vinod Sharma and Vir Pratap, faculty at JKEDI.

## No changes in Sarpanch eligibility criteria: RDD&PR refutes social media post

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 7

The Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Jammu & Kashmir, has strongly refuted claims circulating on social media regarding new qualifications for Sarpanch candidates in the Union Territory.

A viral social media post alleged that the J&K government had issued a notification under "J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 under Section 6, 2022," introducing new eligibility criteria for those aspiring to become Sarpanches. The post claimed that candidates would need to be permanent residents of J&K, be at least 25 years old, and have a minimum educational qualification of 12th pass, among other

requirements.

However, the Department has categorically denied these claims, terming the news entirely false and fabricated.

In response, the Department has emphasized that no new notification has been issued and that the current eligibility criteria remain as they have been under the J&K Panchayati Raj Act of 1989.

The RDD has also clarified that any changes or amendments to this Act would be announced through official channels, not through unverified social media posts.

The RDD has cautioned social media platform users against spreading fake news stories related to changes in local governance structures or election processes.

## New land immigration expands reach with second branch in Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 7

Today, New Land Immigration proudly inaugurated its second branch in Miran Sahib, Jammu, marking a significant milestone in its commitment to facilitating international travel and education experiences. The inauguration was graced by renowned journalist Ravinder Singh, who served as the Chief Guest, and Vikram Singh Chib, President, Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) alongside Sushil Singh Charak, Founder of Nations Development Association (NDA) and Former Secretary of the International Human Rights Organisation J&K, as the Guest of Honour.

Esteemed patrons Satish Katoch and Rekha Katoch also attended to support this momentous occasion. In his address, Sushil Singh Charak emphasized the importance of New Land Immigration's expansion, which aims to meet the increasing demands of students and travelers in the region.

The management of New Land Immigration expressed sincere gratitude to Chief Guest Ravinder Singh for his inspir-



ing words and invaluable presence, highlighting his guidance as pivotal to the event's success.

"We are excited to expand our presence in Jammu and remain committed to delivering personalized services to our clients," said Rahat Katoch, Founder cum Director and Danish Katoch Managing Director. "Our goal is to empower individuals to achieve their global aspirations."

The new branch offers specialized services tailored to the unique needs of clients, including Study Visa guidance

for students, hassle-free Tourist Visa processing, and Work Visa support for professionals seeking international opportunities. Under the leadership of Rahat Katoch and Danish Katoch, the New Land Immigration team is dedicated to providing exceptional support.

Parmjeet Singh, Anikat Singh Chib New Land Immigration Team Members, Er. Ashu Kumar Member of Nations Development Association (NDA), Mohinder Singh and Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) Teams, were also present on the occasion.

## Assembly Elections-2024: Second randomization of Counting Staff held at Bandipora

JNEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 07

The second randomization of counting staff for the three Assembly Constituencies of Bandipora District was today conducted today at mini Secretariat.

District Election Officer Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri conducted the randomization in presence of Observers and Returning Officers and other concerned.

The randomization was conducted using dedicated software, strictly adhering to the guide-



lines of the Election Commission of India, ensuring fairness and impartiality in the selection of count-

ing personnel besides the entire process was video recorded.

## Assembly Election-2024

### Comprehensive training Session for Counting Supervisors, Assistants ahead of Counting Day held at GDC Rajouri

JNEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 7

A comprehensive training session was held today at GDC Rajouri for the appointed Counting Supervisors and Counting Assistants in preparation for the counting day scheduled on October 8, 2024.

The District Election Officer Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, joined the training session to provide valuable guidance to the trainees. He emphasized the importance of accuracy, transparency, and strict adherence to the Election Commission of India's protocols during the counting process.

A total of 234 employ-



ees designated for Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) counting participated in the training, along with around 150 employees who were instructed on the management of postal ballots.

The training session was led by the District Nodal Officer (Training), Dr. Naseem Ahmad, and his team of experts.

During the session, participants were thoroughly briefed on the detailed procedures, responsibilities, and technical aspects of the counting process.

The training was well-received by the attendees, who expressed their readiness and commitment to carrying out their responsibilities on counting day.

## Ashok Kumar Verma assumes charge as General Manager of Northern Railway

JNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

Ashok Kumar Verma, an officer of the Indian Railway Stores Service, has assumed the regular charge of General Manager of Northern Railway. A 1987-batch officer, he has served the Indian Railways in various capacities.

Apart from his vast experience in store-related issues, Verma also has experience in handling general administration. Before taking over as General Manager of Northern Railway, he held the position of General Manager of Central Railway Electrification Organization (CORE) Prayagraj.

Verma has served as Principal Chief Material Manager in North Western Railway, as Divisional Railway Manager of the Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway, and as Additional Divisional Railway Manager of the Jhansi Division. He has also previously served as Executive Director of Railway Stores in the Railway Board.

After formally taking charge, Verma held a meeting with all the principal heads of departments. All the Divisional Railway Managers also joined the meeting via video conferencing. While addressing the meeting, he outlined his priorities.

He emphasized that



successful completion of projects within the stipulated timeframe.

He stated that the works must be planned with safety, passenger convenience, and the operational needs of the future in mind. He further noted that the Railways contribute significantly to India's GDP and that progress in the Railways is essential to achieving the vision of 'Viksit Bharat.'

The GM also commended the efforts of the staff in ensuring the safety and smooth functioning of train operations. He expressed his admiration for the hard work of the trackmen and gangmen, who work round the clock in hostile weather conditions.

Verma holds a degree in Civil Engineering from Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Prayagraj, and an MBA degree from IIM Kolkata. He has completed a Diploma in Public Procurement (Public Procurement in Multilateral Agencies Funded Projects) from the Indian Railway Institute of Logistics and Material Management and a PG Diploma in Alternate Dispute Resolution Mechanism from the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research University. He has extensive experience in Finance and Public Procurement.

## Kashmir Marathon: Div Com reviews overall progress of arrangements

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 7

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today convened a meeting to review the progress regarding preparations for the successful conduct of Kashmir Marathon.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC, Dr Owais Ahmad, Director Tourism, VC LCMA, ADC Srinagar, SSP Traffic, Commandant SDRF, Srinagar, Director Health Services Kashmir, officers KPDCL, R&B, Youth Services & Sports, and other concerned departments.

On the occasion, Div reviewed arrangements at the venue with respect to electricity, sanitation, Aid Centres, toilet facilities and seating arrangements.

The meeting deliberated over the selection



of different patches of route and establishment of Aid Stations after every 250 meters. The meeting also discussed the traffic plan to ensure smooth conduct of historic event in Srinagar.

Div Com also reviewed the readiness of water ambulances in the Dal Lake and evacuation plan during any medical exigency. Considering the major role of Health Department, it was informed that all the arrangements including triage centres, medical aid centres, stretchers and deployment of expert medical teams shall be ensured for timely help to the participants.

It was also informed that top health institutions falling within the proximity of the Marathon route have also been looped in for immediate treatment during emergency.

Commissioner SMC briefed about the existing toilet facilities at the main venue & different places along the route and Mobile Toilet Vehicles at Aid Stations besides installation of bins to ensure clean route.

Regarding deployment of volunteers, Div Com emphasized on providing the training to volunteers and sensitizing them regarding their roles & responsibilities.



# DefConnect 4.0 Raksha Mantri launches ADITI 2.0 challenges & DISC 12 to foster innovation, entrepreneurship & 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence

JNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

Rajnath Singh launched the second edition of Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI 2.0) challenges and the 12th edition of Defence India Start-up Challenges (DISC 12) during DefConnect 4.0 at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt. on October 07, 2024.

ADITI 2.0 features 19 challenges from the Armed Forces and allied agencies in the domains of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum Technology, military communication, anti-drone systems customised for military platforms and adaptive camouflage, etc. This scheme offers a grant of up to Rs 25 crore to Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) winners, focusing on critical technological areas crucial for strengthening the defence ecosystem of the country.

DISC 12 presents 41 challenges across key technology domains, including Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), AI, Networking and Communication, with grants up to Rs 1.50 crore. Notably, it introduces the Medical Innovations and Research Advancement (MIRA) initiative, featuring nine challenges aimed at fostering the development of medical technologies to meet the medical demands of the Armed Forces. To provide momentum to the iDEX initiative, DISC was

launched in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, aimed at supporting start-ups/MSMEs/Innovators to create prototypes and/or commercialise products/ solutions in the area of national defence and security.

In his address, Raksha Mantri commended DefConnect for playing a crucial role in developing the culture of innovation in the country. He stated that the platform is bringing a new energy to the defence industrial ecosystem, and making the nation's talent a partner in strengthening the security apparatus. Terming DefConnect as an important link between all the stakeholders associated with the defence ecosystem, he exuded confidence that the platform will help in realising the vision of 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence.

Enumerating the feats achieved due to the Government's efforts to promote innovation, Shri Rajnath Singh informed that iDEX has received over 9,000 applications so far, and is currently collaborating with more than 450 start-ups & MSMEs through DISC and Open Challenge. He added that 26 products have been developed under iDEX, for which procurement orders worth more than Rs 1,000 crore have been placed. In addition, Acceptance of Necessity and Request for Proposal worth over Rs 2,380 crore have been issued for 37



products. The ADITI initiative is focusing on over 30 critical and strategic technologies to strengthen the defence ecosystem, he said.

Raksha Mantri highlighted the vibrant and dynamic ecosystem of innovators, entrepreneurs, scientists & start-ups in the country, stating that the world is acknowledging the strength & talent of India's youth. He reiterated the Government's commitment to further enhance the role of the private sector in the defence ecosystem. Their involvement is necessary to achieve self-reliance, he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh pointed out that as soon as the Government, led by Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi, came to power in 2014, it identified 'lack of private sector participation in the defence sector' as a major hurdle in attaining self-reliance, and strived to increase their contribution in nation building. "There were two major dimensions of self-reliance in the defence sector. First was the manufacturing of arms/equipment, whose technology was available, but there was a lack of production capacity. Second was catering to the needs of high-technology applications in view of the constantly-changing nature of warfare. Earlier, only in-house R&D and organisations like DRDO were working towards the development of such cutting edge technolo-

gies. But now, we are witnessing a significant role of the private sector too. There is enhanced synergy between the public & private sectors, the biggest example of which is DefConnect," he said.

Raksha Mantri appreciated the 'SIDBI iDEX Partner Incubator Fund', stating that the collaboration will meet the critical funding needs of innovators. SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) will allocate Rs 50 crore to 10 leading partner incubators, including Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer at IIT Delhi, Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship at IIT Bombay, and Technology-Hub Hyderabad, to fund iDEX winners in advancing critical defence technologies.

On the new technologies being incorporated in wars and conflicts, Shri Rajnath Singh said apart from conventional arms & ammunition, many dual use or purely civilian tech is being weaponised. He called for an in-depth understanding of these technologies, exhorting the innovators to make imaginative use of the advancements for the defence of the nation.

Stressing on the need to move forward from imitative to innovative and distinctive technologies, Raksha Mantri called upon the private sector to think beyond the solutions to challenges being provided through ADITI & DISC. He

urged them to bring forth the tech which is far ahead of the requirements of the Armed Forces and would be beneficial to deal with future threats. He promised the Government's full assistance to achieve the goal of a strong & self-reliant defence sector.

On the occasion, Shri Rajnath Singh also felicitated the ADITI 1.0 winners, and extended his best wishes for their future endeavours. Leading iDEX winners showcased their cutting-edge solutions related to Munition Systems, Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance, Communication Systems & Space Technologies, as part of DefConnect 2024. The winners include QuNu Labs, Sagar Defence Technologies, Astrome Technologies, Zeus Numerix Pvt. Ltd., NewSpace Research and Technologies, Pixxel Space India etc.

Chief of the Army Staff General Upenra Dwivedi, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, OSD, Department of Defence Shri RK Singh, Secretary (Defence Production) Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat, Financial Advisor (Defence Services) Shri Sugata Ghosh Dastidar, other senior officials of Ministry of Defence, industry leaders, academia, young entrepreneurs & innovators attended the event.

## Himmat Singh Dhillon honoured with 'Collaborative Excellence Award'

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 7

The Headmaster of The Lawrence School, Sanawar; Himmat Singh Dhillon has been awarded with the GSLC (The Global School Leaders' Consortium) Advantage Collaborative Excellence Award for the year 2024 in appreciation of excellent service and collaborative approach almost exhibited in the field of education. The award ceremony event titled "GSLC Advantage-The Confluence of POVs (Colloquium and Collaborative Excellence Honour Ceremony)" was

held at Hyatt Regency, Chandigarh. Addressing the gathering of eminent educationists and edupreneurs, Himmat Dhillon dwelled elaborately on the concept of 'Campus as Curriculum' and said, "Nature is the best educator and all the best possible efforts should be made to take students closer to the myriad lessons nature is constantly teaching about almost every subject including the life guiding subject such as philosophy. A teacher in the present pedagogical era is best placed as guide by the side and must shun his image of Sage on the Stage."

## Drug Abuse Awareness Program held at Springdales, Akhnoor Road, Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 7

The National Incredible Literacy Mission J&K conducted a Drug abuse awareness programme in collaboration of Directorate of School Education Jammu and Government of Jammu and Kashmir U.T. Involving hundreds of school students of Springdales School Rajouri Line Akhnoor Road, Jammu. Here to create awareness on drug and substance abuse and its negative fallout on the individual. The program was conducted in the school premises.

According to NILM Chairman Thakur K.D. Kurhan, the aim of the programme is to empower students to say no to drugs and create awareness of substance abuse by helping them

channel their energies into creative pursuits. NILM staff members who deliver lecture during program included R S Thakur, Kiran Sharma, Tania Dogra and Pooja Sahu.

Here Archana Jandev Manhas Principal of the said school gave an impressive lecture on the Drug abuse. Principal of the school also appreciated the role of NILM NGO for synthesizing awareness among masses. School staff who actively participated in the awareness program included Coordinator Bandana Sharma, Activity Incharge Surekha Sharma and other teachers including Meenal Sadotra, Geetanjali Handoo, Kailash Rani, Roopali Rajput, Vaishali Sharma, Shivani Kotwal, Anirudh Sharma and Janvi Sharma.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### Poll Results Ready...

P K Pole said that a three-tier security has been put in place at all counting locations across the UT. "There are 25 counting locations in the UT. Three centres have been set up for counting of migrant votes," he said, as per news agency.

He said the counting will start at 7:30 am with postal ballots first and then Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). "All arrangements are in place. Candidates have also been given information about their counting agents. EVMs are very much protected in a multi-layer security of police, CRPF and other officials," Pole said, adding that all steps have been taken to ensure smooth counting across all centres.

The Polls in J&K were held in three phases from September 18 to October 1. Of the 90 seats in the Kashmir Valley and Jammu region, 24 voted in the first phase, 26 in the second and 40 in the third.

There were 873 candidates in the fray for 90 seats, the fate of whom has been sealed. In all three phases, J&K recorded 63.88 per cent, less than the 65.52 percent recorded in the 2014 assembly elections. Out of the 25 counting centers, SKICC in Srinagar would be the centre of focus where counting of eight crucial seats of Srinagar district will be held.

There were many political stalwarts in the fray that include National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah contested from Budgam and Ganderbal assembly segments, Sajad Gani Lone of People's Conference from Handwara and Kupwara seats, Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hamid Karra from Shalteng and BJP J&K president Ravindra Raina from Nowshera seat.

The other prominent faces in the fray were Congress general secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir from Dooru, PDP leaders Waheed Para from Pulwama), Iltija Mufti from Bijbehara, Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari from Chanapora, CPI(M) veteran Muhammad Yusuf Tariqami from Kulgam and former deputy chief ministers Muzaffar Hussain Baig, Ali Muhammad Sagar, Abdur Rahim Rather and Tara Chand.

Interestingly, exit polls on Saturday suggested NC was on the front seat in Kashmir and BJP in Jammu. BJP has claimed that it will win a full majority. There is a need of 48 seats for forming the government. However, five nominated MLAs will be the king-makers vis-à-vis government formation in J&K even as parties like NC and Congress have opposed the move on the pretext that only elected government can nominate the five MLAs that has to be later approved by the Lieutenant Governor.

The candidates in the fray told KNO that they won't sleep as indeed it would be a sleepless night for them. "I think none of the candidates in fray would sleep tonight. It is going to be the longest night of our life. There is a little bit of fear, an increased heart rate and an emotional outburst as well," said Aijaz Mir, an independent candidate.

Workers of many political parties were seen buying sweets and garlands late night Monday to celebrate the victory of their favourite candidates. However, no activity was seen at the offices of major political parties like NC, PDP and Congress regarding celebrations. KNO

### Exit Polls: Is J&K Heading...

also have the same opinion." Pertinently, the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) Chief, Tariq Hameed Karra had on Wednesday stated that the National Conference-Congress alliance is open to taking support of like-minded parties and individuals for government formation in the Union Territory if such a need arises.

However, NC Vice President, Omar Abdullah has dismissed alliance talks with PDP as premature. He criticised calls to delay government formation, asserting it would benefit BJP.

Furthermore, Iltija Mufti, PDP leader and daughter of Mehbooba Mufti said that senior leadership will take a call on extending support to a secular front only once the results are out.

"...Let me put the record straight. PDP's senior leadership will take a call on extending support to a secular front only once the results are out. This is our official stand," she wrote. KNO

### J&K Assembly Elections...

three times—1996, 2002, and 2008—has a storied history in J&K politics, having also served as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. After a brief defection to Ghulam Nabi Azad's camp in 2022, Chand rejoined the Congress and now seeks to extend his electoral success.

Similarly, Harsh Dev Singh, the former education minister and long-time representative of Ramnagar, is hoping to revive his political career. After serving as the president of the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party and later joining the Aam Aadmi Party in 2022, Singh returned to the Panthers Party in 2023 and is again contesting elections.

In Kishtwar, Ghulam Mohammad Saruri is aiming for a comeback after parting ways with the Congress in 2022. Saruri, a former minister with a consistent electoral record in Indrawal since 2002, is now running as an independent candidate. Meanwhile, Choudhary Lal Singh, who has represented Basohli multiple times and served in the PDP-BJP coalition government, also remains a prominent contender.

Mohammad Yusuf Tariqami, known for his integrity and long-standing affiliation with the CPI (M), seeks a fifth term from Kulgam. Tariqami's standing in his constituency remains strong, but the election will test his continued influence in the region.

Tariq Hameed Karra, former MP from Srinagar and now State Congress President, is another heavyweight with a storied past. His notable victory over National Conference stalwart Dr. Farooq Abdullah in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections marked a turning point in J&K politics, and Karra is once again in the fray, aiming to replicate his success this time in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections.

Rounding out the list of seasoned politicians are National Conference leaders Ali Mohammad Sagar and Mubarak Gul. Sagar, who has represented Srinagar's Khaniyar constituency since 1996, and Gul, who has held the Eidgah seat since 1983, are both fighting for their constituencies' trust once more. KNO

### LG releases book titled...

of Shri Ghanshyam Jha, author of the book and former Chairperson J&K Water Resources Regulatory Authority, in maintenance of water resources, flood control, irrigation, drinking water supply and providing new tools and guidance to the engineering community.

Sh Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; Sh Iftikhar Kakroo, Chairman, JKWRA; other dignitaries including Prof. Barkat Husain; authors and their family members, HoDs, and other senior officials were present.

### Modi-Muizzu talks: India...

has always acted as the first responder for Maldives, whether to bring essential commodities for the people of Maldives or provide help during any natural calamity, and providing vaccines during Covid.

India has always upheld its responsibility of being a neighbour, and to give strategic depth to the relations the two sides have decided to adopt the "Vision of Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership".

He said that India will continue to provide training and capacity building for the Maldivian National Defense Force and that both sides will work together for the security and peace in the Indian Ocean Region.

The MEA spokesperson in a post on X said: "A partnership fulfilling shared aspirations!"

PM @narendramodi and President @MMuizzu held comprehensive discussions to further deepen ties on a range of areas including development partnership, energy, trade, financial linkages and defence cooperation."

### Absolute challenges...

crown of India and has two enemies on the borders, the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister said.

Asked the like-minded people will join his party in forming the next government in Jammu and Kashmir, Farooq said "I hope so..I pray to God..I hope it does happen..and I hope with all these people who want to join us make a strong government, a government which will give people what they want".

He said, "I am very happy to come together to build a better Jammu and Kashmir. We should shine all over the country". "I am sure they are reaching out to us. We welcome it and you have seen the Peoples Democratic Party Chief Mehbooba Ji's statement which is a very welcome step", he added.

"We all if together can work faster rather than work against each other..that is what we need", Farooq emphasized.

Asked if there would be horse-trading after the results came out, Farooq said "let them do horse-trading..who stops them..let them see who they can buy then who has to face the people".

### Put Govt formation on...

"Is this justice? I want to ask the Government of India what was the criteria used to distribute properties of J&K in Delhi and the rest of the country. Ladakh has only 4 to 5 lakh population and for them you have kept J&K House, while J&K has over 2 crore population, where would the people go if they need to travel out of J&K for treatment, travel and jobs," Er asked.

To a query if BJP wins majority in Jammu and NC in Kashmir, to which party AIP would extend support, Er Rashid said that his priority wasn't government formation and only safeguarding the interests of J&K.

On five nominated members by the J&K Administration, he said: "By nominating members of its own, the J&K administration is damaging and challenging the very idea of BJP and PM Narendra Modi: Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Pradhan. How can Delhi people nominate members for J&K Assembly when poll results are yet to be out," the North Kashmir MP said. Er Rashid is out on bail till October 12. He has served detention in New Delhi's Tihar for five and a half years. KNO

### BJP will extend central...

Rashid during the press conference also revealed that he had been to Delhi for two days.

"The BJP would like nothing more than to extend central rule in J&K if they aren't in a position to form a government," Omar said.

### CS shows concern over...

to make more efforts to create awareness among the students so that no seat remains vacant in these colleges. He said that the candidates are moving outside UT for seeking admission in professional courses, therefore it is time to introspect and take corrective measures wherever necessary.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed development of online counselling portal for the Board, which is expected to be made ready by the end of this month by the NIC. He directed for launching it at an earliest so that from next session the admissions are exclusively made through this portal only.

Regarding the admission process the Chairperson, JKBOPEE, Minu Mahajan, apprised the meeting that the timeline for filling of remaining seats as per the directions were issued and extended upto 31st of this month.

Giving details, it was added that out of the 1107 MBBS seats under UT quota 100% admissions had been made. Similarly, in the courses of BDS, MDS, BAMS, BUMS, BPT, B.Sc Nursing, almost all seats had been filled by the Board through counselling process. Besides, the courses like B.E/B.Tech having around 600 seats in government colleges and B.Ed having 330 seats in government run institutions had got 410 and 229 seats filled till date.

It was further revealed that certain relaxations had been given in admission process besides extending the cut off date for easement of the students. It was added that vigorous information campaigns had also been launched so that the capacity of these institutions is utilized optimally and no seat remains vacant there. KNO



## St. Mary's Infant Convent School holds Swearing-in Ceremony for New School Prefect Council

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 7

In a momentous event held on 7th October 2024, St. Mary's Infant Convent School, Jammu, proudly announced the swearing-in of the new School Prefect Council for the academic year 2024-25. The ceremony was graced by Fr. Santosh Athickal, the Financial Administrator of the Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar, who presented badges to the newly appointed prefects.

At the helm of the leadership team, Aahana Rajput and Manthan Bhargav were sworn in as the Head Girl and Head Boy, respectively. Both students have demonstrated exemplary leadership qualities, academic excellence, and commitment to the school's values, making them the perfect candidates to lead their peers.

Supporting the head



prefects in their roles are Anaya Kaith, appointed as the Deputy Head Girl, and Mehran, who will serve as the Deputy Head Boy. Meanwhile, Samiya and Manvi were adorned with the titles of disciple coordinators. The passion of these young students for fostering a positive school environment and their dedication to extracurricular and academic activities have earned them this prestigious recognition.

The principal, Mrs. Sheetal Anthony along with the staff of the school lit the ceremonial lamp. Mrs. Anna Mary, Chairperson of St. Mary's Infant Convent School (SMICS) graced the event as the special vedette. During the ceremony, Fr. Santosh Athickal commended the students on their achievements and encouraged them to uphold the values of responsibility, teamwork, and service to

others. He also expressed his hopes for the council to lead by example and inspire their fellow students to strive for excellence in all endeavors. The event concluded with a pledge taken by the entire council, affirming their commitment to uphold the honor and principles of SMICS. This marks the beginning of an exciting year of leadership and growth for the newly appointed prefects.

## Tap water reaches 78.58% of rural households under JJM

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 7

The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2019, with the ambitious goal of providing tap water supply to every rural household by 2024. At the time of its inception, only 3.23 crore (17%) of rural households had tap water connections. The mission aims to bridge this gap by providing nearly 16 crore additional households with tap water by 2024, ensuring the functionality of existing water supply systems, and directly benefiting over 19 crore rural families. This initiative is intended to reduce the rural-urban divide and enhance public health. Jal Jeevan Mission also strives for the freedom of mothers and sisters from centuries old drudgery of fetching water for the household, and improving their health, education and socio-economic condition. The Mission is bringing 'ease of living' and adding pride and dignity to rural families. Jal Jeevan Mission also implements source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through greywater management, water conservation and rainwater harvesting. The Mission is based on a community approach to water and will include extensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) as a key component. JJM looks to create a janandolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.

**Key Achievements**  
As of October 6, 2024, Jal Jeevan Mission has successfully provided tap water connections to 11.95 crore additional rural households, bringing the total coverage to more than 15.19 crore households, which accounts for 78.58% of all rural households in India. The mission has reached a significant milestone, profoundly impacting the lives of rural people by providing them with reliable access to potable water in their homes.

## Indian Army organizes Cricket League to Empower Youth at Surankote, Poonch

JINNEWS SERVICE  
POONCH: 07 OCT 24

In an inspiring initiative aimed at empowering local youth, the Indian Army inaugurated a cricket tournament in Surankote, Poonch. This tournament is designed to engage young people in sports while addressing critical social issues, particularly drug abuse. With thirteen teams from various villages participating, the event showcases local talent and promotes teamwork. The cricket League emphasizes the significance of sports in personal development and community bonding. The tournament is being held at the Surankote, transforming the area into a hub of activity and excitement. Local leaders and community members attended the inauguration, reflecting strong support for initiatives that uplift the youth and encourage positive engagement. The Indian Army has a history of promoting sports in the South of Pir Panjal region, with similar events that aim to foster commu-



nity spirit. By organizing the cricket League, the Indian Army aims to provide a constructive outlet for the youth, steering them away from negative influences. The league not only focuses on cricket but also instills essential life skills such as discipline, leadership, and resilience in the participants. This initiative serves as a vital step towards encouraging healthy lifestyles and fostering a sense of camaraderie among young people in the region. The success of these tournaments reflects the Indian Army's ongoing dedication to community development through sports. By

facilitating such events, the Indian Army plays a crucial role in nurturing talent and promoting unity within the local population. The Mendhar Super League is not just a cricket tournament; it represents hope and opportunity for young people seeking to channel their energy into productive activities. The cricket League stands as a testament to the Indian Army's commitment to fostering a vibrant and united community in the south of Pir Panjal region. Such initiatives are essential for building a brighter future for local youth and encouraging them to pursue their passions.

## One day orientation cum training workshop on Adult BCG vaccination held at Doda



JINNEWS SERVICE  
DODA, OCTOBER 07:

Under the guidance of worthy Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Om Kumar, a one day block level orientation cum training workshop on Adult BCG Vaccination of healthcare professionals of Block Ghat District Doda was held at Conference Hall, CMO Office Doda on 07-10-2024.

The training session was aimed with the ongo-

ing initiative of the department to trained all healthcare professionals about the new concept of Adult BCG Vaccination.

Dr Nasir Masood Indrabi, Sh Surinder Singh PMA Supervisor and Sh C K Shan were the key speakers (Trainers) who imparted the training to the participants in a comprehensive manner, briefed all the aspects, management, criteria, measures and all requirements need to start this newly launched proj-

ect of GOI to curb Tuberculosis.

The training session was also attended by BMO Ghat Dr Abdul Gafoor, who graced the occasion and gave a brief introduction about this new initiative of GOI to launch Adult BCG vaccination.

The Adult BCG vaccination is a programmatic study aimed at vaccinating vulnerable populations by the end of 2024 and is designed to target individuals aged 18 years and above, focusing on various criteria such as TB history, age, smoking habits, diabetes and Low BMI.

Sh Mashhood Latif, BM&EO NHM Ghat coordinated the training programme, which ended on a successful note.

## Hindi Pakhwada celebrations conclude at NIT Srinagar

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 10

The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar marked the culmination of a 15-day Hindi Pakhwada celebration with a grand valedictory ceremony held on Monday. The event was organized by the Rajbhasha Cell, and featured a range of activities aimed at promoting the use of official language on the campus.

The valedictory ceremony was graced by the presence of the Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, who served as the Chief Guest for the occasion. The event witnessed the participation of several distinguished guests including Dean P&D Dr. Yashwant Mehta, Head MED, Prof. Adnan Qayoom.

In a message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A Ravinder Nath praised the Rajbhasha Cell for its dedication and successful execution of the 15 day event.

He also expressed confidence that Hindi Pakhwada would encourage students and staff to actively use the language, thereby strengthening the institute's commitment to Rajbhasha as part of its everyday communication.

Addressing the gathering, Institute's Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman commended the efforts of the Rajbhasha Cell for their outstanding work during the Hindi Pakhwada. Over the past two weeks, the Rajbhasha Cell organized a variety of activities, benefiting both students and employees of the Institute, he said.

Prof. Rehman commended the Rajbhasha Cell, under the leadership of Dr. Rajesh Shukla, for their outstanding efforts but stressed the importance of continued progress in line with the



recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee.

He suggested that the Rajbhasha Cell prioritize training employees in basic Hindi vocabulary, which would not only benefit the institute but also enhance the personal skills of the staff.

Prof. Rehman emphasized that this initiative should be taken on a priority basis and proposed that the Rajbhasha Cell develop a timetable for regular classes to facilitate the learning process.

"We hope that by next year, there will be a significantly improved understanding and use of Hindi across the campus," Prof. Rehman added that there is a need for training employees in at least one language to enhance communication skills and institutional growth.

The event was attended by Deputy Registrar (Admin) Faisal Irshad Ganai, AR (Accounts) Mubashir Ahmad Wani, AR Admin, Supervisor of Hindi Teaching, Rajbhasha Cell Mohammad Iqbal Dar, AR (Special Secretary to Director) Shahid Hamid, Hindi Officer Dr. R. P. Shukla (Asst. Prof. CED), Hindi Anuvadak Dr. Sabzar Gani Batoo, Medical Offi-

cer, Dr. Gowhar Nabifaculty coordinators, teaching and non-teaching staff, and enthusiastic students were also present on the occasion.

Dr. Jitendra Gurjar, Dr. Brijesh Kumar, Dr. Neeraj Gupta, Dr. Pramod Kumar Yadav, Dr. Ved Prakash, Dr. Brijendra Singh Sengar, Dr. Prabal Verma, Dr. Prvan Kumar Katiyar, Dr. Atendra Kumar, Dr. Mohd Aslam, Dr. Mohd Zubair Ansari, Dr. Amandeep Singh, Dr. Ravi Kumar, Er Junaid Ul Islam and Mohmmad Abrar Khan were the coordinators of the event.

Earlier, Dr. Rajesh Prasad Shukla, Hindi Officer at the Rajbhasha Cell, highlighted the efforts made in promoting Hindi within the institution and commended the collective contributions of everyone involved. He especially praised the work of Hindi Anuvadak, Dr. Sabzar Gani Batoo, and other coordinators for their valuable contributions during the 15-day event.

Dr. Shukla said that they have already discussed training of employees proposal with NIT Srinagar administration who are registered for the Praveen course, emphasizing the importance of furthering

Hindi language proficiency among staff.

He noted that the 15-day Hindi Pakhwada celebration provided a platform to strengthen the connection with the Hindi language and promote its active use within the NIT Srinagar community. The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony where teaching and non-teaching staff, along with students, were honored with certificates and mementoes by the Registrar, Dean P&D, HOD MED, and other dignitaries. In the essay writing competition (Faculty category), the 1st position was secured by Dr. Jitendra Gurjar, followed by Dr. Prvan Kumar Katiyar in 2nd place, and Dr. Prabal Verma in 3rd place.

In the Non-Teaching category, Naresh Kumar (Junior Assistant) claimed 1st position, Farhan Bashir (Stenographer) took 2nd, and Sohail Baba (SAS Assistant) bagged 3rd place.

In the Administrative Vocabulary competition, Naresh Kumar (Junior Assistant) again secured 1st position, while Basarat Bashir (Junior Assistant, Legal Cell) claimed 2nd place, and Tawheed Husain (Junior Assistant) finished 3rd.

For the student essay competition, Prince Kumar won 1st place, Mahesh Kumar came in 2nd, and Mohammad Faizan and Sakshi Singh jointly took 3rd place.

Additionally, Prof. Noor Salam Khan, HOD of Chemical Engineering, was awarded for issuing 100% bilingual documents during the financial year 2023-24.

Naresh Kumar was also felicitated for completing the highest number of bilingual notings in the administrative staff category for the same financial year.

## Usha International supports "Dah-Fangs" traditional archery event in Kargil

JINNEWS SERVICE  
KARGIL, OCT 7

Consumer durables brand Usha in collaboration with the Ladakhi Craft & Design Skill Centre and the Department of Physical Education and Sports, Govt Degree College Kargil, Ladakh, organised Dah-Fangs, a traditional archery event at the College premises at Kargil.

The event witnessed 80 male and female participants compete across teams, with an enthusiastic local audience comprising students and community members cheering them on. Govt Degree College, Kargil emerged as the champion in boys category while Govt Polytechnic College, Kargil stood second. In the girls section, Govt Degree College, Kargil won the title while Govt Polytechnic



College, Kargil placed runner up. The Guests of Honour at the event included Tahir Hussain, Director, Youth Service & Sports, UT Ladakh; Mohd Ishaq, Zonal Physical Education Officer Taisuru/ Traditional Archery Expert, and Mohd Sadiq Shalti, Former National Archery Coach, felicitated the winning and runners-up teams. All winners received certificates and traditional tokens of appreciation. Dah-fangs

is the Ladakhi word for archery and is distinct in its style and equipment. The bows are typically made from locally sourced willow wood, while arrows are crafted using bamboo and tipped with metal points. The competition is characterised by unique rules and formats, with archers aiming at small, brightly coloured targets. This form of archery dates back many centuries and originally served as

a crucial skill for hunting and self-defence and has since been an integral part of the lives of Ladakhi people.

Speaking on the Occasion, Komal Mehra, Head, Sports Initiatives & Associations at Usha International, said, "Every traditional sporting event brings us closer to the rich traditions and cultural commitment at Usha to preserve and support these practices. The enthusiastic significance that shapes local communities. Today's Dah-Fangs event has deepened our understanding of its importance in Ladakhi culture and has further encouraged response from the local community and inspires us to continue connecting people to their roots while promoting the importance of following a healthy lifestyle through the power of sport."

## IEI Jammu Centre celebrates World Habitat Day

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 7

The Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu Local Centre celebrated World Habitat Day at Channi Himmat, Jammu, in which Dr. Devansh Yadav, IAS, Municipal Commissioner, Jammu & Kashmir

Chief Executive Officer, Jammu Smart City Limited was the Chief Guest and Prof. Dr. Bhawna Sharma, FIE; Chairman, IEI, Jammu Local Centre,



and Sachin Tickoo, Honorary Secretary were present among large number of engineers, professionals

and members of the civil society on the occasion. A seminar on the theme "Engaging youth to create

a better urban future" was organized on the occasion.

In her Welcome address she emphasized the critical role young people can play in shaping sustainable, inclusive, and resilient cities. As urbanization accelerates globally, cities are grappling with large range of challenges, including overcrowding, environmental degradation, housing shortages and social inequality. She said young people with their fresh perspectives.



## EDITORIAL

## President Mohamed Muizzu's assurances to India and the Future of Indo-Maldivian Relations

The newly elected President of the Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu, has quickly set the tone for his administration's approach to foreign relations by assuring India that his government would never jeopardize India's security interests. This commitment, made during his first few weeks in office, is significant given the geopolitical sensitivities surrounding India-Maldives relations and the broader dynamics of the Indian Ocean region.

Muizzu's election win came as a surprise to many, given his affiliation with the People's National Congress (PNC) and the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM), which have historically advocated for reducing the Maldives' dependency on India. His predecessor, President Ibrahim Solih, maintained strong ties with India, engaging in what was widely regarded as a "pro-India" policy. However, Muizzu's victory was seen by some as a potential pivot toward China, given his party's previous stance on reducing Indian influence in Maldivian affairs.

President Muizzu's assurance to India is not only a diplomatic necessity but also a message to both domestic and international audiences. On the one hand, Muizzu must navigate the expectations of his supporters, many of whom voted for him due to his promise of a more balanced foreign policy that includes distancing from the "India First" approach of his predecessor. On the other hand, the geopolitical realities of the Indian Ocean region demand that the Maldives maintain cordial and cooperative relations with India, its immediate neighbor and one of the most influential powers in the region.

India has long been a crucial partner for the Maldives, providing economic aid, security assistance, and infrastructure development. The strategic importance of the Maldives in the Indian Ocean cannot be overstated. Its location along major shipping routes makes it a key player in maintaining security and stability in the region. India, for its part, sees the Maldives as a crucial partner in its broader Indo-Pacific strategy, which is aimed at countering China's growing influence.

By offering assurances that India's security interests will not be undermined, Muizzu is recognizing the importance of this partnership, even as he seeks to craft a foreign policy that may be more independent in tone. This balancing act will be one of his administration's greatest challenges, as he navigates between his domestic base, which has expressed concerns about Indian military presence in the Maldives, and the geopolitical necessity of maintaining strong ties with India.

Muizzu's rise to power was partially fueled by the "India Out" campaign, a political movement that called for the removal of Indian military personnel from the Maldives and criticized the extent of Indian influence in Maldivian affairs. The campaign resonated with certain segments of the Maldivian population, who viewed the presence of Indian forces as an infringement on the nation's sovereignty.

While Muizzu has yet to make a definitive move on the issue of Indian military presence, his assurances to New Delhi signal that his administration may not take drastic steps to expel Indian personnel. Instead, the tone of his remarks suggests that he will likely seek to recalibrate the relationship with India rather than sever or significantly reduce ties. This delicate approach is crucial, as any misstep could risk economic fallout or create security vulnerabilities, especially given the Maldives' reliance on Indian military support in times of crisis, as seen in the 1988 coup attempt.

India and the Maldives share more than just geographic proximity; their destinies are intertwined by a history of cultural, economic, and security cooperation. Muizzu's administration has an opportunity to build on this legacy by crafting a foreign policy that respects Maldivian sovereignty while acknowledging India's legitimate security concerns in the region.

The president's recent assurances to India should be seen as a pragmatic step in this direction. As both nations navigate the evolving dynamics of the Indian Ocean region—particularly the rising influence of China—it is critical that they work together to ensure that their mutual interests are safeguarded. For India, this means respecting the Maldives' desire for greater autonomy in its foreign policy, while for the Maldives, it means recognizing the central role that India plays in maintaining regional stability.

Ultimately, Muizzu's pledge to prioritize India's security interests is a positive signal for Indo-Maldivian relations, but it is only the beginning. His ability to strike a balance between domestic pressures and regional geopolitical realities will define the success of his foreign policy in the years to come. For the Maldives, maintaining strong, yet balanced, relations with India is not just a diplomatic necessity—it is a matter of national security and prosperity in an increasingly complex world.

## Elevate wellness experts as industry leaders

DINESH SOOD

Beauty, wellness and grooming are indispensable aspects of life, particularly for young professionals striving for financial success and a luxurious lifestyle. It's crucial to recognise that a professionally trained hairdresser can earn more than an engineer or a doctor, dispelling the outdated notion that community-based hairdressers only fulfil basic needs. Their workplaces also serve as vibrant community centres where people gather, exchange ideas and foster belonging while waiting for a haircut. Therefore, it's imperative to rebrand the skills and professionals in the beauty and wellness sector as 'Beauty Architects' or 'Glam Gurus', elevating their profession's status and attracting more talent to this lucrative industry.

Our country's beauty and wellness industry presents unparalleled employment opportunities and global placements. Recognising this, the government has initiated various measures to create pertinent content, curricula, information databases, and delivery systems, standardise accreditation and certification processes, and establish industry-aligned infrastructure.

These efforts aim to equip young individuals to perceive beauty and wellness as a promising profession. The beauty and wellness sector should streamline its curricula to emphasise industry exposure.

As the industry transitions towards more excellent organisations, professionals must be educated on adhering to professional service standards, obtaining industry-specific qualifications and certifications from reputable organisations, and enhancing their existing qualifications through access to higher education and research.

Integrating extensive internship, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training opportunities will provide candidates with practical work experience and a comprehensive understanding of the industry. The absence of employer-led apprenticeship standards and career pathways leads to limited internship opportunities, depriving numerous students of valuable learning experiences.

Early introduction of beauty and wellness courses in schools is essential. Our current education systems prioritise knowledge-oriented training through rote learning, neglecting practical, experiential learning

crucial for real-world application. Therefore, orienting students towards vocational education as an alternative career choice is imperative. The absence of practical and experiential learning impedes innovation, creativity, and imagination among learners, leaving them ill-prepared for the evolving world of work. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 advocates integrating vocational education with mainstream education to expose 50 per cent of K12 and PG learners to vocational skills by 2025 and 100 per cent by 2030. Schools play a crucial role in raising awareness about vocational career paths.

Notably, beauty and wellness skill courses have been part of the curriculum in Delhi Government schools for over a decade. Early exposure to such vocational education can aid students, parents, and guardians in considering alternative career paths and foster a positive outlook on the workforce's dignity in the beauty and wellness industry. The vocational education sector has tried mainstream vocational courses such as BVoc, MVoc, BSc, and MSc in Beauty and Wellness. However, these programs have seen low enrollment due to a need for more awareness about

career opportunities and limited seats.

There is a need to design more BVoc and MVoc courses with multiple entry and exit points, focusing on practical application in areas such as Beauty Culture, Cosmetology, Yoga, Ayurveda Dietetics, Sports Nutrition, Physiotherapy, Salon Management, Beauty Therapy, Aesthetics, Aesthetic Dermatology, Hair Dressing, Makeup, and Spa Therapy, rather than just theoretical knowledge.

Additional focus is also required in the areas of human psychology, stress management, mental well-being, nutrition and diet, reflexology, alternate therapies etc. An alternative pathway to a bachelor's degree is completing a one-year ITI program and gaining a year of industry experience. Expanding training capacities in the Beauty and Wellness sector within ITIs is crucial, as the current short-term training programs are insufficient to meet industry standards and demand.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is essential for informal workers with significant industry experience. Despite possessing valuable skills, many informal workers in the Beauty and Wellness industry need more formal

education and training.

RPL can help them gain formal certification based on their industry experience. Additionally, there is a need to support entrepreneurship in the Beauty and Wellness sector. More than 50 per cent of vocational graduates in this sector opt for self-employment, and there is a growing trend of industry workers starting their enterprises.

A robust support system is required to support these entrepreneurs and foster innovation and employment. The Indian beauty and personal care market is experiencing rapid growth in tier-II and tier-III towns, with a substantial value of \$22 billion and projected to expand at a rate of 10-12 per cent to reach \$34 billion by 2028, as per the Nykaa Beauty Trends Report. This surge in tier-II and tier-III cities is not surprising, given the global trend. In India, approximately 38 per cent of the demand for beauty and wellness products and services, particularly direct-to-customer (D2C) offerings, originates from these cities, making them highly lucrative markets.

Despite being underdeveloped, tier-II and tier-III cities hold significant potential in the beauty and wellness sector. Research indicates that profession-

als in these cities are well-versed in domestic and international trends, products, and hair services. Social media's influence has been pivotal in driving lifestyle changes, especially among the younger population. Young customers and professionals in tier-II and tier-III towns are eager to explore new trends and various beauty and wellness services.

In contrast to metropolitan cities, recruiting a skilled workforce in these smaller cities is more accessible, as a motivated and trainable young workforce is readily available. Beauty, wellness, and grooming have become integral to everyone's lifestyle, regardless of whether they reside in metropolitan cities or smaller towns across India.

People increasingly seek professionals to help them achieve their desired makeovers, so it's time to adopt an inclusive approach to rebrand the traditional workforce as professionals in the beauty and wellness sector.

(The writer is co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and a network Member of India International Skills Centres, an initiative of GoI; The views are personal)

## Mobilising climate finance in India: Uncovering alternative routes

KAVIN KUMAR  
KANDASAMY

India's changing dynamics with the geopolitical powers of the world coupled with its accelerating economy have put us in a unique spot—one that allows it to be the voice of the Global South. India's position on climate change commitments attracted global attention during the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, during which Prime Minister Modi committed to India achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

This ambitious pledge, unprecedented for a developing nation, was a point that speaks of a profound shift in India's climate policy. The country's newfound authority was further solidified after last year's G20 Presidency.

Among the many deliberations that India helmed with the other delegations, there was also a renewed global

focus on the urgency of climate action. The Urgency of Mobilising Capital in the Global South, while the impacts of climate change are global and far-reaching, the impacts of this Research shows that 55 vulnerable countries have suffered \$525 billion combined climate crisis-fueled losses in the last 20 years. The number is estimated to reach \$580 billion per year by 2030. This is because large-scale investments are required for mitigation or adapting to the consequences.

The Loss & Damage Fund, proposed at COP27 and operationalised at COP28, was a move India with the rest of Global South welcomed.

Though it is receiving initial contributions from developed nations, these fall short of what many developing countries deem necessary. Further, a recent study by CEEW found that the developed world, which

is responsible for three-fourths of existing carbon emissions in the world—will end up emitting 38 per cent more carbon in 2030 than they have committed, if one were to look at the current trajectories. 83 per cent of this overshoot will be caused by the European Union, Russia and the United States. It is critical to ensure the rescue and rehabilitation of countries facing the cascading effects of this global issue disproportionately. India has held the Global North accountable—not just as the voice of the Global South but owing to its vulnerability.

Understanding India's Stance around 619 million persons in India bore the brunt of climate change-induced extreme heat between June 16 and June 24. This is more than any other country in the world. These incidents are not just environmental, but also economic and health-related. Cities grind to a halt under the

force of extreme weather, leaving economic scars and jeopardising the marginalised.

Creating a resilient and sustainable future for India necessitates a just transition, which in turn requires significant financial investment. India faces a substantial climate financing shortfall of USD 3.5 trillion. To address this, we need investment support amounting to USD 1.4 trillion by 2070, translating to an average annual requirement of USD 28 billion over the next five decades. While international support is undoubtedly crucial, harnessing the potential of domestic mechanisms like carbon pricing and blended finance models is crucial for long-term sustainability.

Novel mechanisms of blended finance can not only help bridge the financing gap to fulfil India's needs but can also unlock significantly higher investment from the private sector. This

will also help in reducing overdependence on external climate capital as the primary instrument for climate capital. Strategic Alignment of CSR Funds Corporate India makes substantial expenditures as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility.

We have an opportunity here to strategically align these CSR funds in a manner that accelerates our efforts of achieving SDGs. According to provisional data from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), spending on health reached Rs 9,987 crore in FY22, compared to Rs 8,382 crore on education. In contrast, spending on the environment was Rs 2,837 crore in FY22, which is double the Rs 1,337 crore spent in FY21. There is a major scope for increasing the quantum of CSR funds being streamlined towards carbon projects.

This notion reverberates further in the Reserve Bank of India's report on

currency and finance, wherein equitable CSR funding is listed as the crucial policy alternative to mitigate climate risk. While energy and mitigation have received the most amount of climate financing for India, more investments should be directed towards nature-based solutions and environment ecosystems that crosscut both mitigation and adaptation in India. This will help create permanence in carbon removals that will help mitigate the effects of climate change. The flexible nature of CSR provides businesses in the country a significant chance to foster positive transformation and marry socio-economic advancement by finding environmental solutions. Yet, these dual benefits are attainable only with a committed long-term vision and detailed planning.

(The writer is CEO, ProClimate; views are personal)

## Leadership and mental health of employees

SAKSHI SETHI

In today's dynamic workplace, the mental health of employees has become a focal point for organisations aiming to foster a productive and harmonious environment. One of the most significant factors influencing employee's mental health is the role of leadership. Bosses and managers possess the power to shape workplace culture, influence employee satisfaction and directly impact mental well-being. Leaders hold a unique position of authority that can significantly affect an employee's perception of their work environment. The tone set by leaders creates the foundational culture of an organisation. It is undeniable to say that a positive, encouraging atmosphere promotes employee engagement and satisfaction, whereas a toxic environment leads to

stress and anxiety. Several research indicates that employees who feel supported by their leaders are more likely to experience lower levels of stress and higher levels of job satisfaction. Studies also indicate that transformational and supportive leadership styles co-relate with better employee mental health outcomes.

Leaders who provide emotional support and recognition can significantly reduce stress levels among employees. Conversely, authoritarian leadership styles often result in increased employee anxiety and decreased morale. Flexible work arrangements such as remote work, and flexible hours positively impact mental health by allowing employees to manage personal responsibilities alongside work demands. One of the most crucial aspects of effective leadership is the ability to provide support



and recognition.

There is no denying the fact that employees thrive when their contributions are acknowledged and valued. A boss who regularly provides constructive feedback and celebrates achievements fosters a sense of belonging and motivation. This recogni-

tion can enhance employees' self-esteem and reinforce their commitment to the organisation. On the other hand, a lack of recognition can lead to feelings of inadequacy and disillusionment, ultimately affecting mental health negatively.

The interplay between

workplace factors and employee mental health is complex but increasingly recognised as critical to organisational success. By fostering supportive leadership, promoting a positive work culture and prioritising employee well-being, organisations can enhance mental health outcomes and overall productivity. Continued research in this area is essential for developing effective strategies to support mental health in the workplace. The impact of leadership on employee mental health is profound and multifaceted. Bosses have the authority to shape the workplace culture, provide support and recognition, communicate effectively, manage workloads, resolve conflicts and model healthy behaviours. Understanding the importance of these factors can help organisations create healthier work environments where employees

feel valued and supported. As businesses continue to navigate the complexities of the modern workplace, prioritising mental health through effective leadership is not just beneficial for employees but is also essential for fostering a productive and engaged workforce. The interplay between workplace factors and employee mental health is not only complex but also increasingly recognised as critical to organisational success. By fostering supportive leadership, promoting a positive work culture and prioritising employee well-being, organisations can enhance mental health outcomes and overall productivity. Continued research in this area is essential for developing effective strategies to support mental health in the workplace.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)



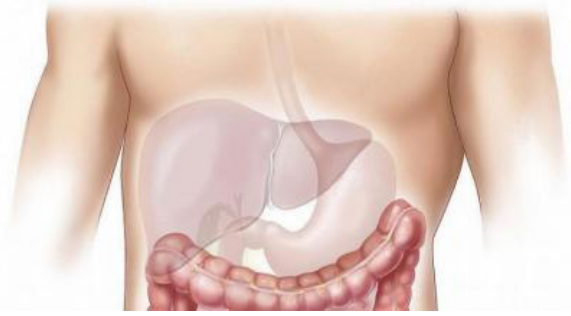
## Japanese study shows gut hormones key to fight fatty liver disease

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

A Japanese study has revealed the crucial role of intestinal absorption in the gut in preventing dietary-induced fatty liver disease.

The accumulation of fats in the liver is driven by high-fat diets and obesity and is becoming an increasingly prevalent global health concern. Characterised by excessive fat accumulation in the liver, this condition poses significant risks for various metabolic disorders.

While much of the existing research has focused on fat metabolism within the liver itself, emerging



findings emphasise the critical role of the gut in this complex process.

Researchers from the Fujita Health University in Japan in a mice study explored how key hormones like proglucagon-derived peptides (PGDPs), including glucagon, GLP-1, and GLP-2, impact fat

absorption and liver fat buildup. PGDPs are generally known to be the key hormones that regulate lipid metabolism in the liver. The study, published in the journal *Nutrients*, investigated the response of mice to a high-fat diet (HFD) for seven days to shed light on a potential

new strategy for preventing fatty liver.

"When we subjected both GCGKO mice (lab-generated mice with a gene that has been inactivated) and control mice to an HFD for one week, the GCGKO mice exhibited a significantly lower increase in hepatic free fatty acid (FFA) and triglyceride levels, along with reduced adipose tissue weight," said Associate Professor Yusuke Seino from the varsity.

These effects were attributed to a decrease in lipid absorption, despite a reduced fat-burning capacity in the liver.

The findings showed that the absence of PGDPs

prevents diet-induced fatty liver by lowering intestinal fat absorption. Notably, the study also underscored the intricate relationship between diet, hormonal responses, and intestinal microbiota.

The mice fed on a high-fat diet showed notable shifts in gut bacteria, with an increase in *Parabacteroides* and a decrease in *Lactobacillus* -- both linked to obesity resistance.

Seino noted that the study showed how "oral dual antagonists of GLP-2 and glucagon could emerge as potential therapies for obesity and fatty liver, especially given their roles in insulin sensitivity and lipid metabolism".

## Claims of ill health 'unfounded, in good spirits': Ratan Tata

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

Denying "unfounded rumours" of ill health, industrialist Ratan Tata on Monday said he was in "good spirits".

His comments came as several media reports claimed that the 86-year-old was rushed to a hospital and was admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU) after his blood pressure dropped.

Denying the reports, the former Tata Sons Group Chairman said the visit was part of a routine check-up due to his age.

He said: "Thank you for thinking of me."

"I am aware of recent rumours circulating regarding my health and want to assure everyone that these claims are



unfounded," Tata wrote in a post on social media platform X.

"I am currently undergoing medical check-ups due to my age and related medical conditions."

Further, the octogenarian also urged the media not to spread misinformation.

"There is no cause for concern. I remain in good spirits and request that the public and media respect refrain from spreading misinformation," he said.

His health scare sent waves of concern across India, with public figures, industry leaders, and

citizens expressing their hopes and prayers for his speedy recovery. Social media has been abuzz with messages of support, with many emphasising his pivotal role in shaping modern India's business landscape and his continued dedication to charitable causes even in his later years. Ratan Tata remained the Chairperson of the Tata Group conglomerate twice -- from 1991 to 2012 and from 2016 to 2017. He has become a popular figure on social media and shares heartfelt posts about animal rights (particularly dogs). He had more than 13 million followers on X and nearly 10 million on Instagram. He is the 'most followed entrepreneur' in India, according to the 360 ONE Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2023.

## India a lighthouse country in global digital health arena: JP Nadda

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

India is a lighthouse country in the digital health arena, said Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Monday, while lauding the country's various health initiatives that aim to provide health cover for all.

Speaking at the 77th session of WHO South-east Asia Region (SEARO), Nadda said the country's approach to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) emphasises strengthening primary health care and essential services.

In his inaugural address, he highlighted several health initiatives in the country such as the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-



communicable Diseases (NCDs), and e-Sanjeevani, among others.

"India as a lighthouse country in the digital health arena, is poised to share its Digital Public Infrastructure (DPIs) such as Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, e-Sanjeevani, Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), SAKSHAM, etc. by providing technical and financial support through the

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

While silent strokes may not be fatal as a normal brain stroke, it can still affect brain health and lead to cognitive issues such as memory and attention problems, said experts on Monday.

Silent stroke, also known as silent cerebral infarction, can go undetected for years. It does not have symptoms such as sudden weakness, speech difficulties, or facial drooping.

It occurs when cerebral blood flow is transiently disrupted, leading to ischemic damage without overt clinical symptoms.

However, "the condition can result in subtle neurocognitive deficits, such as memory issues and difficulties with attention, and increased risk of subsequent overt strokes, which are more severe and easily recognisable," Dr Deepak Yadav, Consultant, Neurology, Amrita Hospital, Faridabad, told IANS.

"Depending on the location of the clot, silent stroke can cause symptoms such as weakness in an arm or leg (which could cause a fall) or trouble speaking or seeing," added Dr Aashka Ponda, Consultant Neuro-physician, Bhailal Amin General Hospital.

The experts noted that

key risk factors include hypertension, diabetes mellitus, obesity, and a sedentary lifestyle, all of which contribute to vascular dysregulation and atherosclerosis, conditions that affect the health of blood vessels and can lead to more serious cardiovascular events.

"In India, the rising prevalence of these risk factors, coupled with increased psychological stress and dietary changes, has led to an uptick in silent strokes," Yadav said. The experts recommended early neuroimaging assessments for identifying silent strokes before they cause significant harm.

## Vitamin C deficiency in elderly can cause abnormal bleeding, and fatigue: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

Older adults suffering from abnormal bleeding, fatigue, and weakness, must be assessed for scurvy -- a disease caused by vitamin C deficiency, suggests a study on Monday.

Detailing a case study of a 65-year-old woman with mobility issues and social isolation, the study published in *CMAJ* (Canadian Medical Association Journal) showed that scurvy, or vitamin C deficiency, is not just an 18th-century seafarers' disease.

Researchers from the



University of Toronto in Canada implored clinicians to consider scurvy in patients with abnormal bleeding and nonspecific symptoms.

The elderly patient visited the emergency department at a downtown Toronto hospital for

leg pain and weakness, skin lesions, and discoloration. She also had several chronic health conditions.

Mobility issues restricted her ability to go grocery shopping, cook, and perform other daily activities. She lived largely on canned soup and fish, with

no fresh produce.

"This case presents a complex example of food insecurity manifesting as an uncommon diagnosis," said Dr. Sarah Engelhart, a general internist at Mount Sinai Hospital and the University of Toronto.

The researchers noted that vitamin C deficiency is more common than expected in the 21st century. However, its diagnosis is often challenging as symptoms are often non-specific, such as fatigue, weakness, and shortness of breath.

The patient also smoked, which further contributes to vitamin C

deficiency. Her symptoms improved once she started on vitamin C treatment, and a blood test for vitamin C deficiency eventually confirmed the diagnosis, said the doctors.

"Clinicians should be alert to vitamin C deficiency when assessing patients, including children and isolated older adults," the doctors said.

The team noted that people who follow restrictive eating patterns (for example, those with autism spectrum disorder or those on a tea and toast diet), who smoke cigarettes, who have a substance use disorder, or

## Telangana: Doctors at KIMS Hospital treat rarest Kidney disease

AGENCIES  
KURNOOL (TELANGANA), OCT 7

Doctors at KIMS hospital in the city have diagnosed a 4-year-old boy suffering from rare and extraordinary kidney disease.

The boy was diagnosed with Lipoprotein Glomerulopathy (LPG), one of the rarest kidney disorders, the hospital said in a release here on a Monday.

A medical team at KIMS Hospital, Kurnool, led by Consultant Nephrologist Dr. K. Anantha Rao, successfully treated the boy, making this the first reported case in South India and the youngest

patient in the world to be diagnosed with LPG.

Providing details about the case, Dr. Anantha Rao said: "The 4-year-old boy, a resident of Kurnool, was brought to the hospital with swelling in his legs and face, which had persisted for two months. Upon conducting a few tests, we detected significant protein leakage in his urine, initially suggesting nephrotic syndrome".

The patient was started on steroid treatment but showed no improvement. The case was then referred to me, and upon further investigation, we diagnosed the boy

with steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome. We also found abnormally high cholesterol levels, with serum cholesterol at 250 mg/dL and triglycerides at 950 mg/dL -- an extremely rare presentation, said the Nephrologist Consultant.

We conducted a kidney biopsy and electron microscopy, which revealed the presence of Lipoprotein Glomerulopathy, the rarest kidney disorder in the world, he said. This is the first such case ever documented in South India and the first instance globally of LPG occurring in such a young patient.

## Heart Attack vs Cardiac Arrest: Know the Difference

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

In most cases, people learn that a person is suffering from heart pain and conclude it is a heart attack or cardiac arrest without knowing the differences. Medically, both are distinctly different. Though both are related to heart problems, they are caused by various reasons. Here are a few points that differentiate both heart problems.

A heart attack occurs when your vital blood supply is interrupted. Think of your heart as an engine and the blood vessels as the fuel pipes. If a pipe gets blocked, the engine suffers. That chest pain is a warning sign, but thank heavens, your heart keeps beating.

Cardiac arrest is different. This represents a situation wherein your heart stops working altogether. Heart failure can indeed lead to cardiac arrest; however, there are other reasons why cardiac arrest would occur. Lifestyle factors include bad diets and inactivity, which can stealthily damage the pipes in your heart.

Pay attention to the signals that your body is sending. If physical activity leaves you breathless or aching, talk to your doctor. They will be able to interpret these symptoms for you and refer you for a stress test or specialist care. Ignore that ache within you; it may be a heart attack. Act fast, dial for emergency help, and you may save a life.

## AP: RRIH achieves new milestone in Homeopathic healthcare & research

AGENCIES  
GUDIVADA (ANDHRA PRADESH), OCT 7

The Regional Research Institute (RRIH), Gudivada, under the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) and the Ministry of AYUSH, continues to achieve new milestones in homeopathic healthcare and research.

In the past 100 days, RRIH has played a crucial role in advancing homeopathic medicines, enhancing patient care, and significantly contributing to public health programs in Gudivada and surrounding areas, the Institute Officer in charge Dr. Kishan Banoth, said in a release here on Monday.

On this occasion, we extend our gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his vision in

promoting and propagating AYUSH systems both within India and across the globe.

He expressed sincere thanks to Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of AYUSH, for his support for the growth of AYUSH systems.

Being a patient centric institution, the institute initiated several clinical projects, which include Simple Myopia, Multi Morbidity in older adults and the projects to be initiated are Add on Homoeopathy in the treatment of type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and Osteoarthritis, he said.

Apart from these projects, RRIH also has a significant role in research in Drug proving (new homeopathic drugs) and clinical verification of 10 drugs,

he said. There are 6 proposed projects on Chronic Kidney Disease, Cholelithiasis, Stress Incontinence of Urine, Psoriasis, Varicose veins, and PCOD.

In addition, the Institute provides General OPD on all working days, offering consultations, medicines, and lab investigations at affordable Government rates given patient's welfare.

Special provisions ensure free services for Below Poverty Line (BPL) patients, while senior citizens avail of a 50 percent discount on charges.

Patient registrations and consultations are done and updated in the online AHMIS Portal. He said the RRIH also has its speciality OPDs such as Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Rheumatology, Mother & Child, and ENT

Clinics.

RRIH participates in E-Sanjeevani online OPD on Wednesday and Saturday, where patients can take tele-consultations, he said.

RRIH is in under process of acquiring NABH and NABL accreditation for Quality upgradation, he said.

RRIH's community outreach programs have seen tremendous success, particularly in public health awareness initiatives, like Poshan Maah program, Awareness on Anemia and providing nutritional education, Menstrual Health Program in school going children, Swachhta Hi sewa, which showed a great impact on the public.

In addition to RRIH's accomplishments, the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy

(CCRH) has made groundbreaking advancements in homeopathic research.

Over the past 100 days, CCRH has initiated 45 new research studies across clinical, fundamental, and drug standardization areas, further establishing India's leadership in homeopathic research said Dr Kushan.

Key collaborations with international institutions, such as the Royal London Hospital of Integrated Medicine, UK, are important achievements, he said. CCRH's technological advancements include the implementation of the Ayush Hospital Management Information System (A-HMIS) across 20 institutes, registering over 150,000 patients within the last 100 days.

The Ministry of AYUSH continues to revolutionize

traditional medicine systems across India.

Among its major achievements are the signing of landmark international MoUs with Vietnam on medicinal plants and with Malaysia on Ayurveda, aiming to enhance the global recognition of Indian traditional medicine systems, he said.

The Ministry has integrated AYUSH into the national healthcare framework by including 170 AYUSH packages under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

As part of its wellness and preventive care initiatives, the Ministry launched national campaigns such as "Har Ghar AyurYog", encouraging Yoga in communities as part of the Fit India movement.



# Conspiracy against Nitish govt during floor test, says Bihar Police

AGENCIES  
PATNA, OCT 7

The Economic Offences Unit (EOU) of Bihar Police has claimed to have uncovered a conspiracy during the floor test of the NDA government led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on February 12, 2024, officials said.

According to the EOU officials, there was an attempt to allegedly buy JD(U) MLAs to vote against the Nitish Kumar-led government during the trust vote.

The EOU's investigation revealed that some MLAs received advance payments as part of a scheme to sway their votes.

These payments were allegedly made to ensure that they would support the Opposition-led Grand Alliance, which could have led to the collapse of the NDA government.

The conspiracy reportedly involved individuals



from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Nepal, and it is believed that had the government lost the trust vote, the full payment would have been made to the MLAs through hawala transactions across different states.

Manavjeet Singh Dhillon, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), EOU, said that the police had uncovered evidence of a money trail connected to the alleged horse-trading attempt.

"The EOU has submitted its findings to the Enforce-

ment Directorate (ED) for further investigation into potential money laundering activities.

The case was initially registered at Kotwali police station on February 11, just a day before the floor test," Dhillon added.

The investigation is ongoing, and the EOU's revelations highlight a serious attempt to manipulate the political process in Bihar.

If the accusations are proven, it would further deepen political tensions

in the state, raising questions about the influence of external forces in the state's governance.

On February 12, 2024, a floor test was held for the NDA government led by Nitish Kumar in Bihar, following a significant controversy involving allegations of horse trading and an attempt to destabilise the government.

The issue gained momentum a day earlier, on February 11, when Sudhanshu Shekhar, a Janata Dal (United) MLA from Harlakh in Madhubani, complained to the Kotwali police station in Patna, alleging the kidnapping of two fellow MLAs and the offer of a Rs 10 crore inducement as part of a plot to buy votes.

Shekhar's complaint specifically accused MLAs Bima Bharti and Dilip Rai of being kidnapped.

He also claimed that an attempt was made to buy the loyalty of several

MLAs, including himself, with offers of money and even ministerial positions.

He named several other MLAs, including his party member, Sanjeev Kumar, who was accused of being involved in this horse-trading conspiracy.

On the day of the floor test, three JD-U MLAs -- including Bima Bharti -- arrived at the Legislative Assembly late and were unable to participate in the Speaker's election.

This raised serious concerns within the Nitish Kumar-led government, which took the matter seriously.

The case was handed over to the EOU for a thorough investigation.

Interestingly, during the floor test, three RJD MLAs -- Prahlad Yadav, Neelam Devi, and Chetan Anand -- were seen aligning with the ruling NDA and Nitish Kumar saved his government.

# HM Shah to chair key BJP strategy meet on Jharkhand polls today

AGENCIES  
RANCHI, OCT 7

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is set to convene a meeting in New Delhi on Monday evening to finalise the party's strategy and candidates for the upcoming Jharkhand Assembly elections.

The meeting is likely to focus on reviewing a panel of potential candidates, seat-sharing arrangements with allies such as the All Jharkhand Students' Union Party and Janata Dal (United).

The Jharkhand BJP Election Committee has shortlisted three potential candidates for each seat, based on a constituency-wise opinion poll. The list includes both long-time BJP members and new entrants to the party.

HM Amit Shah will hold discussions on these candidates with senior party leaders like Jharkhand BJP President Babul Marandi, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Assam Chief Minister and



Jharkhand election co-incharge Himanta Biswa Sarma. Organisational leaders Nagendra Nath Tripathi and Karmveer Singh will also attend the meeting. The Election Commission of India (ECI) is expected to announce the dates for the Assembly elections within the next few days, likely scheduling them for November or December. The commission's team had recently visited Jharkhand and reviewed the poll preparations, taking feedback and suggestions from all stakeholders.

Earlier on Saturday, the BJP announced its "Panch Pran" (five vows) for the elections, focussing on women's welfare, job cre-

ation, and economic support for the youth.

The party promises to provide Rs 2,100 per month to women in the state, every household with LPG cylinders at Rs 500 each, along with two free cylinders per year, to create five lakh government jobs within five years, Rs 2,000 per month for two years to graduate and postgraduate students preparing for competitive exams and permanent housing for all families in Jharkhand.

While launching the 'Panch Pran', state BJP chief Babul Marandi said that the people of Jharkhand believe in the promises made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

# 23 years in office: Manoj Tiwari counts transformative changes under PM Modi

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked 23 years in public office on Monday, BJP MP Manoj Tiwari hailed the PM for his transformative reforms and programmes, both in Gujarat and across India.

Talking to IANS, Manoj Tiwari said, "In the last 23 years, Narendra Modi became the Chief Minister as well as Prime Minister. He has worked for the welfare of the poor as well as for the country. Many people came and made some plans for the welfare of the poor, but the treasury became empty."

"Now under the leadership of PM Modi, tremendous work of launching several development schemes has been done.



Not only this, he has worked for the nation in almost every field, whether it is for our space programme, better roads, sports, players, national security as well as for maintaining India's global identity," he added.

Tiwari further stated that PM Modi will take India to another level of development very soon. "PM Modi has dreamt of

making India a developed nation by 2047. Look how fast he is fulfilling this dream. I consider myself very fortunate as I have been working under PM Modi for the last ten years. I would like to congratulate PM Modi who has been continuously working without taking any leave. He celebrates Diwali and Holi, too, with the Army. It was on October 7,

2001, when he took oath as CM and now in 2024, he became Prime Minister for the third time," he concluded.

The seeds of some key welfare programmes launched by the NDA government in the last decade were sown during the tenure of PM Modi.

Before taking over as the Prime Minister in 2014, Narendra Modi served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014, being one of the longest-serving CMs in India.

In his long innings in public office, PM Modi has many firsts to his credit like the Ayushman Bharat which is a national health insurance programme and the Swachh Bharat Mission which was aimed at making India Open Defecation Free.

# Haryana polls: Three-tier security ring thrown around counting centres

AGENCIES  
CHANDIGARH, OCT 7

A three-tier security ring has been thrown around counting centres in Haryana where counting of votes of the Assembly election will begin at 8 am on Tuesday, officials said.

Director General of Police Shatrughjeet Kapur said, "Every aspect of the counting process has been carefully studied to ensure a smooth operation. Senior officials from Haryana Police will monitor the situation, and strict action will be taken against any attempts to disrupt law and order."

Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel will form the first level of security, the Haryana Armed Police (HAP/IRB) officers will be deployed



in the second ring and district police personnel will form the third security ring, officials said.

A total of 12,000 police personnel have been deployed to ensure security across these centres, said Kapur.

In addition to 30 CAPF and 30 IRB/HAP units, dis-

trict police officers have been assigned across

the state where voting to pick a new 90-member Assembly took place on October 5.

Police checkpoints have been established within a 100-metre perimeter of counting centers. CCTV cameras have

been installed in all 90 strong rooms, enabling close monitoring of all activities.

Police commissioners and superintendents have been instructed to ensure strict compliance with the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The DGP informed that each counting center will have three separate entrances - one each for Counting Staff, Agents, and staff carrying Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

Parking arrangements for representatives of political parties and counting staff have been made, along with other basic facilities. Fire safety services and ambulances will also be stationed at the centers.

# ASSAM GOVT HAS GIVEN 1.25 LAKH JOBS IN LAST THREE YEARS: HIMANTA BISWA SARMA

AGENCIES  
GUWAHATI, OCT 7

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday announced that the state government has given more than 1.25 lakh jobs in the last three years and before the next assembly election, it will cross 1.7 lakh figure.

He said, "In 2021, we made a poll promise of giving 1 lakh jobs to youths of Assam. Today, we have given 400 jobs in different government departments that included education and health. With today's addition, the total government jobs have touched the 1.25 lakh mark. We have planned to provide



more jobs in the coming days. The state government has made a plan to provide at least 1.7 lakh jobs till 2026."

Sarma asserted that no other previous state gov-

ernment was able to give such high number of jobs in the history of Assam.

"I am sure that no previous state government has a track record of giving these many jobs in a single

tenure.

Moreover, every appointment was transparent and no youths in the state now fear for any malpractice in the government recruitment process. There has not been even a single case in the court challenging the recruitment drive," he added.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister also said that the transfer posting between employees will be now controlled through an application and departments will stop using physical files for this purpose.

He mentioned, "All transfer posting applications will be governed through an online portal

and the government employees will be able to use an application for this purpose. They will apply for mutual transfer posting through the app and the whole process will be completed in the online portal. We shall provide a lot of flexibility in the transfer policy."

Sarma argued that this would end the culture of biasness by a section of influential persons including the political leaders in the transfer posting of state government employees.

"Nobody will chase any MLA or minister for getting a transfer posting in Assam in the coming days," he added.

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

In Etawah district of Uttar Pradesh (UP) on Monday a student, Shrishti Parihar was appointed District Magistrate (DM) as part of the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' awareness campaign.

On the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, under the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' awareness campaign, Shrishti was allowed to serve as the DM for a day.

She took charge at the DM's office, where she listened to public grievances and issued directives for their resolution.

This initiative is part of the ongoing efforts by the district administration to boost the morale of girls, encouraging them to focus on education.

Shrishti expressed her excitement, saying, "I am extremely happy to have been given this opportunity. I aspire to achieve this position in the future." She also urged students to not engage in unnecessary activities and focus on their studies.

During her day in office, Shrishti resolved a land dispute involving two women, helping settle the issue efficiently.

DM Avinish Kumar Rai praised the initiative,

stating, "Under the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign, we are providing youth with the chance to experience real work at such important positions.

It's great to see the fresh perspective that the younger generation brings. This experience will teach them a lot, and when a new person looks at things from a different viewpoint, it can lead to new solutions for existing problems. I encourage the youth to participate enthusiastically."

The 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme was launched on January 22, 2015 at Panipat in Haryana.

# HAM leader hails Narendra Modi's 23 years in public office, calls him 'Yugpurush'

AGENCIES  
PATNA, OCT 7

As Narendra Modi marks 23 years in public office on Monday, Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) National President Santosh Kumar Suman hailed PM Modi for his transformative reforms and programmes, both in the Gujarat and across India.

PM Modi is a 'Yugpurush' and he has achieved this position with the strength of his penance. He comes from a very simple family, and achieving such a big mark is an example in itself. He is also a source of inspiration for us and will be remembered for his works."

"My best wishes to him as today he has complet-

ed 23 years in the public office. I think there will be no Prime Minister like him in the history of India. Modi has significantly advanced India's standing on the global stage, particularly during his tenure as PM Modi. Today, India commands respect and recognition worldwide, engaging with major nations on equal footing.

# Minor's rape-murder: Sukanta seeks Union ministry's aid in ensuring impartial probe

AGENCIES  
KOLKATA, OCT 7

The BJP's West Bengal President and Union Minister of State, Sukanta Majumdar, has sought the Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Annpurna Devi's help in ensuring a thorough probe in the alleged rape and murder of a nine-year-old student at Jaynagar in South 24 Parganas district on Friday evening.

In a letter to Annpurna Devi on Monday, a copy of which is available with IANS, Majumdar has requested her to send a delegation to Jaynagar.

"During my recent visit to Jaynagar on 6th October 2024, I interacted with local authorities, who reported a growing sense of insecurity in the area. They highlighted that women and children feel particularly vulnerable, especially in the evenings,

due to the presence of anti-social elements, who have been harassing and intimidating them with offensive comments," Majumdar claimed in his letter.

According to him, given the gravity of the situation and the mounting public outrage, it is crucial that a thorough, impartial investigation be conducted without delay to ensure that justice is served.

"Therefore, I kindly request that your esteemed

office deploy a specialised team from the Ministry of Women and Child Development to investigate this matter. The team's expertise will be invaluable in not only examining the facts of the case but also in providing necessary support to the victim's family, as well as recommending preventive measures to avoid such incidents in the future," the letter read.

He also said that the incident at Jaynagar involving

a heinous act of rape of a minor and her murder, has not only shocked the local community but also raised serious concerns about the safety and security of women and girls in the area. On Sunday, the Calcutta High Court, at a specially-convened hearing, directed that the autopsy of the body of the victim be conducted at a Central-run hospital in the state in the presence of a Judicial Magistrate.



## Oct 7 Hamas attack: Israel vows continued fight against 'satanic killers'

AGENCIES  
TEL AVIV, OCT 7

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant commemorated the one-year anniversary of the October 7 Hamas attack, labelling the group as "satanic killers."

The attack, which occurred during the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah, was the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. It led to the deaths of 1,200 Israelis and the kidnapping of over 100 hostages by Hamas, a Palestinian militant group.

In a post on X, Gallant described the past year as one of "hard and continuous war," as Israel continues its efforts to bring hostages home and defend the nation. "A flourishing and



prosperous region was harmed by satanic killers with only one thing in their eyes - the destruction and destruction of Israel," he said. Gallant said that in the past year, he continued to meet the fighters who were determined to defend the nation.

"When I look into their eyes, I see determination and hope, the same hope that has accompanied the Jewish people since time immemorial," he said.

"Today, more than ever, we carry a deep commitment to continue doing everything necessary to defend the homeland and to be worthy of the legacy of our loved ones, our fallen comrades - citizens and soldiers," he said.

Israel has consistently pushed for the release of these hostages, emphasising that the world must remember the atrocities committed during the October 7 massacre.

Gallant assured that it is his duty "to do everything to return the abducted home, support the wounded in body and soul, and remember the fallen and the story of their lives and deaths, the story of our just war."

He emphasised the resolve of Israeli forces, stating, "We will continue as long as it takes until we achieve our goals," reflecting the ongoing battle against Hamas. He also expressed hope for the recovery and rebuilding of affected areas in Israel.

As Israel marked this sombre anniversary, Hamas attempted another rocket attack on Monday, but Israeli forces intercepted the threat, preventing major damage.

However, four rockets were launched, with three

intercepted and one landing in an open area.

Ahead of the anniversary, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) set up an exhibition displaying items captured from Hamas militants, including vehicles, weapons, and intelligence findings used in the attack.

The exhibition, intended to expose the terrorists' methods to the world, will continue throughout the week, with diplomats, international researchers, and foreign reporters expected to visit.

According to the IDF, about 70,000 pieces of loot, including anti-tank missiles, RPGs, charges, and unmanned aerial vehicles, have been confiscated since the fighting began as part of the effort led by reservists in the loot removal unit.

## Sri Lankan President vows to expedite investigations into 2019 Easter attacks

AGENCIES  
COLOMBO, OCT 7

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake announced that investigations into the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks will be expedited.

The President made the remark during a discussion on Sunday at St. Sebastian's Church in Katuwapitiya, Negambo, with families of those killed and injured in the attacks.

He promised that steps would be taken to ensure that such a tragedy never occurs again in the country and that justice would be delivered to the victims.

Over 260 people were killed in the suicide blasts in several churches and hotels in Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo, on April 21, 2019. The newly-elected



President Anura Kumara Dissanayake had promised to thoroughly investigate the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks carried out by the ISIS-backed suicide bombers that killed 270 people, including 45 foreign nationals and injured over 500.

Earlier on September 24, Dissanayake paid a

visit to the Archbishop of Colombo Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith following his election victory and assured him of taking steps "towards uncovering the truth" regarding the attacks that rocked hotels and churches in the country, the President's Media Division (PMD) revealed on Tuesday.

## NASA-SpaceX delay Europa Clipper mission due to hurricane Milton in US

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

NASA's Europa Clipper mission that aims to search for life on Jupiter's icy moon Europa has been stalled due to hurricane Milton, expected to pose "life-threatening hazards" for parts of Florida in the US, the space agency informed on Monday.

Europa Clipper was set to launch its first mission to conduct a detailed science investigation of Jupiter's icy moon Europa aboard SpaceX's Falcon Heavy rocket from NASA Kennedy's Launch Complex 39A in Florida on October 10.

Even as hurricane Milton barrels towards the already-ravaged Gulf Coast, a state of emergency has been declared in parts of Florida, delay-



ing the mission.

"NASA and SpaceX are standing down from the October 10 launch attempt of the agency's Europa Clipper mission due to anticipated hurricane conditions in the area," NASA said in a post on social media platform X. "Once the storm

passes, recovery teams will assess the safety of the spaceport and the launch processing facilities for damage before personnel return to work," it added.

While NASA has not confirmed a new launch date, the launch window is open till November 6, the US space agency said. "The safety of launch team personnel is our highest priority, and all precautions will be taken to protect the Europa Clipper spacecraft," said Tim Dunn, senior launch director at NASA's Launch Services Programme, in a blog post.

On October 4, the Europa Clipper spacecraft was transported from the Payload Hazardous Servicing Facility at NASA's Kennedy Space Center to the SpaceX Falcon Heavy

rocket in the hangar as part of final launch preparations ahead of launch.

Europa Clipper is slated to travel 2.6 billion kilometers to reach the Jupiter system, where it will arrive in 2030.

Meanwhile, hurricane Milton is expected to move from the Gulf of Mexico this week moving east to the Space Coast. High winds and heavy rain are expected in the Cape Canaveral and Merritt Island regions on Florida's east coast.

It had intensified into a Category 1 hurricane on Sunday. It comes just 10 days after Storm Helene -- the deadliest mainland storm since Katrina in 2005 -- which tore through the southeast, killing at least 225 people, with hundreds still missing.

## Iran, Netherlands discuss regional situation, development of ties

AGENCIES  
TEHRAN, OCT 7

Iran and the Netherlands exchanged views on recent developments in the Middle East and the development of Iran's ties with European countries.

In a phone call with Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof on Sunday, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian pointed to the stances adopted by some Western countries on Israel's "crimes" in Gaza and Lebanon, noting that these countries, instead of condemning Israel's "crimes and terrorist actions," constantly called on Iran to exercise self-restraint, as reported by Xinhua news agency.

Pezeshkian said that Iran, hoping to see the coming to fruition of the efforts to achieve a truce



in Gaza, had refrained from giving an immediate response to Israel's "terrorist crime and violation of its national sovereignty."

On his country's recent missile attack against Israel, the president said the strike was precisely aimed at "reining in its brutality and preventing its bids to expand its crimes and attacks in the

region."

By the missile operation, Pezeshkian said, Iran also aimed to contribute to the achievement of ceasefires and restoration of peace and calm in the region, adding that the military action was conducted in accordance with the United Nations Charter, adhering to legal international frameworks, and was exclusively

directed at military targets.

He stressed that the Iranian government sought to resolve issues such as the nuclear one through dialogue and improve its relations with neighbours and other countries, including the European ones.

The Dutch prime minister, for his part, said, "We deeply believe that the Middle East region has no more capacity for further tension."

Thus, we have called on all parties to refrain from expanding and deepening tension and conflict."

Schoof said his country welcomed the Iranian government's approach to promoting relations with European states, highlighting the necessity to take "palpable" steps to that end.

## Iran summons Australian envoy over 'biased' stance on regional developments

AGENCIES  
TEHRAN, OCT 7

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has summoned the Australian ambassador over his government's "biased stance" towards the recent developments in the region.

Australian Ambassador to Tehran Ian McConville was summoned on Sunday by Ali Asghar Mohammadi, director general of the East Asia and Oceania Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, according to a statement released by the ministry.

The summoning came as Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Wednesday condemned Iran's missile attack on Israel.

Australia's opposition leader Peter Dutton on Friday also called for the

expulsion of the Iranian ambassador to Australia, Xinhua news agency reported.

In the meeting, the Iranian foreign ministry official protested the Australian government's "unjustified and biased" stance and slammed its "silence" in the face of Israel's "aggressions" against Gaza and Lebanon.

Mohammadi reiterated Iran's call for an immediate cessation of Israel's "genocide in Gaza and aggressions against Lebanon," calling on Australia and other Western supporters of Israel to play a "responsible role" to those ends.

The Australian ambassador elaborated on his government's actions to achieve ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon, assuring that he would convey Iran's official protest to the Australian government.

## South Korea, Philippines forge strategic partnership to expand cooperation

AGENCIES  
MANILA, OCT 7

President Yoon Suk Yeol and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. agreed on Monday to forge a strategic partnership between the two countries to enhance cooperation in security, economy, energy and other areas, Yoon's office said.

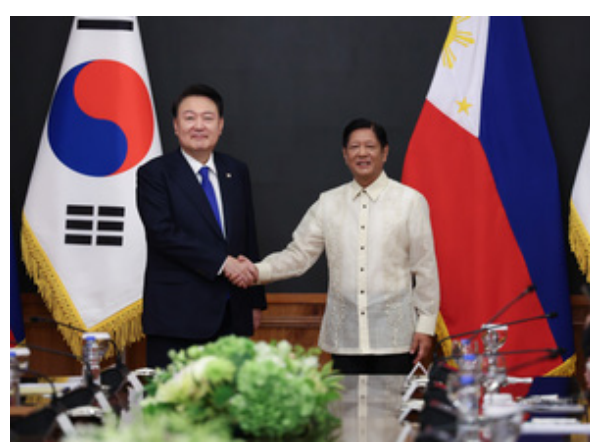
The leaders adopted a joint declaration to establish a strategic partnership during their summit in Manila during Yoon's state visit to the Philippines. It marks the first elevation of ties since the two countries established diplomatic relations 75 years ago, Yonhap news agency reported. "The establishment of the strategic partnership opens a new chapter in relations between South Korea and the Philippines," Yoon said in a joint press conference.

The Philippines was the first Southeast Asian

nation to forge diplomatic relations with South Korea in 1949. It sent the first and largest troop of 7,420 soldiers to Korea when the Korean War broke out in 1950.

The two leaders agreed to enhance cooperation in the defence industry, including the third phase of the Philippines' military modernisation project. South Korea has previously exported FA-50 light attack aircraft, warships and missiles to the country.

On the sidelines of the summit, the two countries' coast guards signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on maritime security cooperation, including combating transnational crimes, information sharing and joint search-and-rescue operations. During the talks, Yoon and Marcos agreed to boost trade and investment by ratifying the bilateral free trade agreement



signed in September 2023.

They also agreed to collaborate on major infrastructure projects in the Philippines and strengthen cooperation in new areas, including nuclear energy, digital transformation, and the supply chain of critical minerals.

To support the initiative, South Korea signed an MOU to provide approximately \$2 billion from the Economic Development Cooperation Fund

to support the construction of the Laguna Lakeshore Road Network and the PGN bridge project, which will connect the three central Philippine islands of Panay, Guimaras and Negros.

Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power (KHNP) and the Philippine government signed an MOU for a feasibility study on the long-dormant Bataan nuclear power plant to inspect whether it is safe to oper-

ate. The plant was completed in 1986 but was never activated on safety concerns in light of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster that occurred that year.

The leaders also explored ways to enhance people-to-people exchanges and improve the employment permit system to create better working conditions for Filipinos in South Korea.

Last year, approximately 1.45 million South Koreans visited the Philippines, making them the largest group of foreign tourists, while around 97,000 Filipinos have worked in South Korea. Since last month, around 100 Filipino home helpers have been employed as part of a Seoul city pilot project to assist households with child care and housework.

During the discussions, Yoon and Marcos agreed to strengthen security cooperation, amid North Korea's evolving missile

and nuclear threats and China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea.

Marcos expressed support for Yoon's unification initiative aimed at achieving a denuclearised Korean Peninsula and committed to collaborating with South Korea on North Korea's denuclearisation.

"The two countries condemned the recent unprecedented surge in the DPRK's ballistic missile launches and its rhetoric regarding the possible use of nuclear weapons," the joint declaration said, urging North Korea to comply with its obligations under relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

"Both countries share concerns about actions in the South China Sea that are inconsistent with the rules-based international order, which undermines peace and prosperity," it noted.

## MUIZZU'S INDIA VISIT INDICATES SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN INDIA-MALDIVES TIES

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu's ongoing five-day state visit to India is his second trip to the country in four months.

It highlights a significant diplomatic shift as Muizzu, who previously backed an "India Out" campaign in the Indian

Ocean archipelago, now seeks to navigate the complex relations while balancing the country's ties with China.

Muizzu, who took power last year, is recognised for opposing India's significant influence in the Maldives and called for the withdrawal of approximately 80 Indian military personnel managing two rescue helicopters

and a Dornier aircraft. This demand was met in May when India replaced military staff with civilian technical personnel.

A month later, he attended the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who assumed office for a third consecutive term.

Breaking with tradition, Muizzu did not make India his first state visit

after assuming the presidency, signalling a clear shift in his foreign policy. Meanwhile, his increasing alignment with China had further complicated relations. Earlier this year, the Maldives permitted the Chinese research vessel Xiang Yang Hong 3 -- perceived as a surveillance ship -- to dock in its waters, raising Indian concerns about potential data

collection by Chinese to support submarine operations in the region.

Concurrently, Muizzu visited China and signed 20 agreements that elevated bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, including a military assistance pact viewed as detrimental to India's strategic interests.

Relations between

the Maldives and India reached a nadir when a 'Boycott Maldives' campaign emerged on Indian social media following derogatory remarks made by three Maldivian ministers about Prime Minister Modi.

Although these ministers were swiftly suspended, the incident significantly reduced Indian tourist numbers in the

Maldives.

After Covid-19, Indian tourists represented the largest segment of visitors to the archipelago, but their numbers fell by 50,000 over the past year, resulting in an estimated loss of USD 150 million for the Maldivian economy.

Ideological and rhetorical considerations frequently take a backseat in realpolitik, especially in

the face of deteriorating economic conditions.

Presently, the Maldives is facing a significant fiscal crisis, characterised by an external public debt estimated at approximately USD 8 billion and foreign exchange reserves that have dwindled to USD 440 million, a sum sufficient to cover only about one and a half month of imports.



## Indian auto retail sales up 6.5 pc in April-Sep, rural markets to spur demand

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

Led by robust two-wheeler (2W) retail sales, the Indian automobile market saw 6.55 per cent growth (year-on-year) in the first six month of current fiscal (FY25), as rural markets are set to spur demand going forward, a report showed on Monday.

The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said that the April-September period saw 9.08 per cent sales growth in 2W, 7.58 per cent in 3W and 1.07 per cent in passenger vehicles (PVs).

However, consumer vehicles (CV) and tracker retail sales fell by 0.65 per cent and 8.82 per cent, respectively, as per the FADA data.

According to FADA President C.S Vigneshwar, "the Shraddh period further impacted sales negatively, leading to a YoY decline in



retail sales across various categories".

"Discounts and offers have been introduced across segments to stimulate demand, but these have yet to translate into a significant improvement in sales," he added.

The southwest monsoon recorded 8 per cent above-normal rainfall, dis-

rupting auto retail performance in several regions and negatively impacting demand and walk-ins.

According to FADA, the near-term outlook for automobile retail is cautiously optimistic as both Navratri and Diwali fall in the same month, creating strong expectations for a surge in vehicle sales.

With healthy water levels in reservoirs and improved crop yields supporting rural demand, the festive season is expected to drive a substantial boost in 2W, PV, and tractor sales with new launches been planned for the month.

"However, the PV segment faces a critical situ-

ation due to high inventory levels at dealerships. If sales do not pick up as expected in October, Dealers could face significant financial pressure from unsold stock piling up in their warehouses," the report mentioned.

While dealers and OEMs are betting on robust festive sales, especially in rural markets where positive cash flow and better agricultural conditions are expected to spur demand, the outcome remains uncertain.

"FADA urges OEMs to take immediate corrective measures to avoid a financial setback. We also call on the Reserve Bank of India to issue an advisory to banks, mandating stricter channel funding policies based only on dealer consent and on actual collateral, to prevent dealers from facing additional financial pressure due to unsold stock," said Vigneshwar.

## Indian alcoholic beverages industry to see 8-10 pc sales growth in FY25

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

The domestic alcoholic beverages industry is likely to see 8-10 per cent revenue in FY25, led by steady demand for beer and a revival in consumption of spirits, along with increasing consumer preference for premium products, a report said on Monday.

According to credit rating agency ICRA, the revenue increase in FY25 will additionally be supported by the price hikes granted by a few state governments in the current fiscal.

During Q1 FY25, the spirits industry reported 9 per cent YoY increase in revenues, supported by 5-7 per cent improvement in realisations, while volumes grew by 2-4 per cent.

According to the report, the beer industry witnessed a higher revenue growth of 12 per cent in Q1 FY25, owing to 3-5 per cent increase in volumes



and 7-9 per cent in realisations.

Kinjal Shah, SVP and Co-Group Head-Corporate Ratings, ICRA, said that the alcoholic beverages industry's volume growth is estimated to improve to 5-6 per cent in FY25 from 4 per cent in FY24.

ICRA expects spirits volumes to grow at a moderate pace of 2-4 per cent in FY25, supported by favourable demographics and a limited increase in taxes anticipated for the year.

"We expect moderate growth of 5-7 per cent for

beer volumes in FY25, on a high base," said Shah.

The manufacturers witnessed an increase in grain cost in the first half of FY25 due to 20-25 per cent rise in non-basmati rice prices, while barley prices have been fairly stable.

However, the non-basmati rice prices have started softening from July 2024 onwards.

Further, the packaging material costs (glass bottles) declined in the current year due to a sharp correction in soda ash prices.

## Mercedes-Benz dealers told to mention only China's CATL battery cells in EVs: Report

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, OCT 7

Mercedes-Benz car dealers in South Korea have apparently been trained by the company's local unit to tell customers that the automaker used battery cells produced exclusively by CATL in its electric vehicle (EV) models.

In the 2023 EQ Sales Playbook, Mercedes-Benz Korea's official dealer training material, dealers were instructed to mention CATL as the EV battery cell manufacturer when responding to customer inquiries. CATL is the global leader in EV battery sales, reports Yonhap news agency.

The topic of EV battery cell suppliers has been a closely watched matter within the auto industry



recently, following a massive fire caused by a Mercedes-Benz EV that ended up damaging over 100 vehicles and destroying an underground apartment parking garage in Incheon, west of Seoul, in August.

To the surprise of many, battery cells used in the EV in question turned out to be from Farasis Energy, a Chinese firm known to be ranked at around 10th globally.

The training material

also included a consultation scenario for addressing customer concerns about the safety of Chinese-made batteries. In sample responses, Mercedes-Benz Korea exclusively mentions CATL as the manufacturer of its EV battery cells.

A sample response states, "CATL is a Chinese company, but it has the most advanced technology in the global battery industry." It also states, "Only

thin battery cells, which are components of the finished battery product, are supplied by CATL, while the production of the finished battery is done at (Mercedes-Benz) headquarters in Germany."

Throughout the material, the company mentions only CATL as its battery cell supplier. According to the official Mercedes-Benz website, the company sells a total of eight passenger EV models. Since the fire incident, the company revealed that certain trims of the EQE and EQS models use batteries from Farasis Energy.

Mercedes-Benz Korea is currently under investigation by the Fair Trade Commission for allegations of providing false information related to EV batteries to customers.

## At \$19 billion, India Inc sees highest quarterly deal volumes in 2 years

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

India Inc saw 551 deals worth \$19 billion in the July-September period, clocking highest quarterly deal volumes in two years, a report showed on Monday.

The three-month period (Q3 2024) also saw 25 initial public offerings (IPOs) valued at \$4.1 billion, according to Grant Thornton Bharat Deal-tracker.

There were 214 mergers and acquisitions valued at \$11.4 billion, a 57 per cent increase in volume and 65 per cent in value from Q2 2024, which is a testament to India's resilience and growing confidence.

"India's deal-making environment has been on the upward trend in



volumes since Q1 2023, with Q3 2024 marking its highest, reflecting domestic market resilience, driven by domestic and cross-border transactions and breeding confidence among investors," said Shanthi Vijetha, Partner, Growth at Grant Thornton Bharat.

Additionally, the record qualified institutional placement (QIP) activity

and heightened IPO listing indicates the upbeat in the Indian capital market.

"We expect this momentum to continue, fuelled by investments in digital transformation, sustainability, and other key sectors," Vijetha added.

Notably, cross-border activity reached a 10-year high, with 35 outbound deals worth \$5.3 billion, led by Bharti Enterprises'

\$4 billion acquisition of a 25 per cent stake in a British telecom group.

Domestic activity also saw a remarkable 54 per cent volume increase and 24 per cent value increase, achieving an all-time high in quarterly volumes, the report noted.

The private equity (PE) landscape saw 337 deals valued at \$7.6 billion, marking the highest deal volumes since Q3 2022.

The quarter saw significant activity from high-value deals, with 23 transactions exceeding \$100 million, totalling \$4.9 billion and accounting for 65 per cent of overall deal values.

Early-stage funding also saw notable traction, with seed, pre-seed, and angel stages securing \$273 million across 80 deals.

## AI, quick commerce, micro-influencers driving festive shopping in 2024: Report

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

With the festive season in full swing, Artificial Intelligence (AI), quick-commerce, and the rise of micro-influencers are some factors playing a leading role in influencing festive purchases this year, finds a report on Monday.

The report, commissioned by social media giant Meta and conducted in September by consumer insights platform GWI, indicates an optimism in consumer sentiment with half of respondents planning on spending more than last year.

It noted that festive shopping trends continue to see disruption with 96 per cent of shoppers expecting their shopping pattern to change this



year on the back of online shopping, e-commerce penetration, and the rise of quick commerce.

"The report clearly shows that festive shopping trends in India are undergoing a dramatic shift with AI, adoption of quick-commerce, the rise of micro-influencers, and prevalence of regional

language content playing a leading role in influencing festive purchases," said Arun Srinivas, Director and Head, Ads Business (India) at Meta, in a statement.

"On our platforms specifically, we are seeing strong adoption of all our key products this festive season -- from AI-powered

ad formats to business messaging and Reels," he added.

Notably, the report shows that e-commerce is on the rise and quick-commerce is expanding into new categories with one in four electronics purchasers and one in three personal care buyers purchasing via quick-commerce. The insights also reveal that over half of this year's festive season, shoppers expect to shop more through e-commerce platforms.

Further, micro-influencers with 10,000 to one lakh followers were found to be just as influential in driving festive purchases as macro influencers with one lakh to one million followers.

Among the shoppers who rely on influencers to discover brands, deals,

and sales events during the festive season, 40 per cent of consumers are influenced by micro-influencers, 39 per cent by macro-influencers, and 23 per cent by nano-influencers, revealed the study.

In addition, regional language ads drive engagement during festive sales as over three in four consumers say it's important for them to see advertising in their local language during festive shopping. AI-powered discovery is propelling the discovery of brands, deals, and sales during the festive period. The report revealed that 80 per cent of festive shoppers are discovering deals and products on Meta, while 85 per cent of consumers are aware of at least one sales event through Meta.

## Probe into TikTok over potential violation of personal data law

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, OCT 7

South Korea's media regulator is set to look into social media platform TikTok over a potential violation of the nation's personal data protection law, an official at the regulator said on Monday.

TikTok is accused of automatically requiring its users to receive advertisements, instead of letting users give their consent to receive such content under the Korean law, reports Yonhap news agency, citing industry sources.

The Korea Communications Commission (KCC) suspects that TikTok may be violating the Act on Promotion of Information and Communications Network Utilisation and Data Protec-

tion and will soon launch a probe into the video sharing platform, the KCC official said.

"We believe there is a problem with TikTok's terms of service and application in getting clear informed consent from its users," the official said.

TikTok, owned by Chinese company ByteDance, is also suspected of not sharing the full content of its terms of service and privacy policy with its users when they join the platform.

Under related law, platform companies must allow freedom to users to decide whether they will receive marketing or advertisement content and get "clear" consent from users in advance to send out such content.

Those who violate the law can be subject to a fine of up to 30 million won (\$22,279).

"Under the rapid-progress scenario, in which countries experience fast but plausible mortality reductions from 2019 to 2050, we would expect globally the gap between projected and frontier life expectancy to be halved by 2050, and the economic value after achieving this scenario is equivalent to 14% of annual income," the authors noted.

Last month, the Nepal Telecommunications Authority directed the country's internet and mobile service providers to lift the ban on TikTok, in line with a cabinet decision on the short-video app.

## Sensex recovers over 200 points

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, OCT 7

Snapping a losing streak of the last five sessions, the BSE Sensex on Monday recovered 223 points at 81,911.64 in the opening trade on the strength of IT, real estate, and health care stocks.

The Nifty of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) rose 58.55 pts to 25,250.73.

The Sensex registered



intra and high and low at 82,137.77 and 81,818.50 pts, respectively. The NSE registered days high and low at 25,143 and 25,049.90 pts, respectively.

The midcap eased 0.09 pc, and the small cap rose

by 0.64 pc. In 30 scrips, 19 advanced while 11 declined.

The gainers were ITC by 1.68 pc to Rs 511.90, Kotak Bank by 1.25 pc to Rs 1831.15, ICICI Bank by 1.02 pc to Rs 1252.20, Infosys by 1.01 pc to Rs 1937.80, and TCS by 0.96 pc to Rs 4289.95. The losers were Titan by 1.75 pc to Rs 3599, Adani Ports by 1.15 pc to Rs 1396.80, and HDFC Bank by 0.66 pc to Rs 1645.80.

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

The Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) giving continuity of investment protection to investors of both countries has come into effect, Finance Ministry said in a statement on Monday.

"The enforcement of this new BIT with UAE

gives continuity of investment protection to investors of both the countries, as the earlier Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) between India and UAE signed in December 2013 expired on 12th September, 2024," the Ministry said.

The Finance Ministry said that BIT signed on 13th February, 2024 at Abu Dhabi, UAE between

India and UAE entered into force with effect from 31st August, 2024.

The UAE is the seventh largest investor with a share of 3% in the total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) received in India, with cumulative investment of approximately \$19 billion from April 2000-June 2024. India also makes 5% of its total Overseas Direct Investments in UAE to the tune of \$15.26

Billion from April 2000-August 2024.

"India-UAE BIT 2024 is expected to increase the comfort level and boost the confidence of the investors by assuring minimum standard of treatment and non-discrimination while providing for an independent forum for dispute settlement by arbitration. However, while providing investor and investment protection, balance

has been maintained with regard to State's right to regulate and thereby provides adequate policy space," Finance Ministry said.

Some of the key features of India-UAE BIT include closed asset-based definition of investment with coverage of portfolio investment, general and security exceptions and right to regulate for state.



## India's aggressive batting approach should be named after skipper Rohit Sharma, says Gavaskar

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

Legendary India batter Sunil Gavaskar believes the aggressive approach shown by the batters in securing a remarkable seven-wicket win over Bangladesh in the rain-hit second Test at Kanpur should be named after skipper Rohit Sharma.

Despite the rain and wet outfield washing out two days of action at the Green Park Stadium, India came out all guns blazing in their first innings with the bat by setting new records for the fastest 50, 100, 150, 200 and 250 scores in the longer format, before declaring at 285/9. They then chased down 95 in 17.2 to complete a blazing win and seal the series 2-0. "As seen in India last year, this approach doesn't work in Test matches and may surprise the opposition for a game or two at best. While one paper called the Indian batting 'Bossball' because the captain or 'boss' of the team, Rohit, had shown the way, some from the old powers referred to it as 'Gamball' after the Indian coach, Gautam Gambhir."



"While the England batting approach changed completely under the new regime of Ben Stokes and McCullum, we have seen over the last couple of years that Rohit has been batting like this and encouraging his team to do so as well. Gambhir has only been coaching for a couple of months, so attributing this approach to him is foot-licking of the highest quality."

"Gambhir himself hardly ever batted in this fashion like McCullum

used to do. If any credit is due, it is solely to Rohit and nobody else. Instead of using the words this-ball or that-ball, I would suggest using the skipper's first name, Rohit, and term it the 'Gohit' approach. Hopefully, brainier people will come up with a trendier name for this rather than the lazy option of calling it after 'Bazball'."

He also wondered if India had batted in the

same manner when Test matches weren't worth World Test Championship points, with the top two teams from the current cycle to play the final at Lord's next year.

"That day's batting set the game up for India to secure a win on the final day and earn the much-needed points required to be in the race for a place in the World Test Championship (WTC) finals in June next year."

"Would this approach have been adopted if there were no points on offer and no qualification needed for the WTC final? Having lost two full days of play, with the team batting first still having seven wickets in hand, not many teams in the past would have even looked at a result and would have been content to play out the remaining two days for personal records and milestones."

"So, full marks to the ICC for creating the World Test Championship and thereby making every Test match, including a dead rubber, important for the points teams can accrue from them. Every Test match thus has con-

text and has lived up to the long format, with teams wanting a win and looking to make things happen by trying something new and innovative.

"However refreshing and thrilling the Indian batting was in the Kanpur Test match, let's face it: would they have batted in the same manner if there were no points on offer? The much-maligned ICC deserves every bit of applause for changing the perception towards every Test match by creating the World Test Championship. India knows they have tough games ahead, and thus they had to try and secure maximum points while playing in India," elaborated Gavaskar.

The next challenge for table-toppers India will come from New Zealand, who will play a three-match Test series here from October 16 to November 5 in Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai. "Bangladesh is done and dusted, and now it's the Kiwis who will be in the firing line of Rohit and his boys. Will they overpower them as they did Bangladesh? We shall soon find out," concluded Gavaskar.

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

Pacer Mayank Yadav revealed that he was nervous before making his T20I debut against Bangladesh in Gwalior on Sunday. He also credited the support of captain Suryakumar Yadav, who gave him freedom and encouraged him to bowl on his strengths.

Mayank turned eyeballs in the IPL 2024 with his tear-away pace while playing for Lucknow Super Giants. However, his stint in the tournament was cut short due to an injury but the speedster recovered well to earn a spot in India's squad and ultimately played his first international match.

"It's a very great moment because I'm coming from my injury. I was bit nervous this time but I kept telling myself don't stress yourself but when I got to know that I would be playing my first match, the complete flashback of the last four months came in front of my eyes," Mayank said on BCCI's official website after India's seven-wicket win. "He (Suryakumar) gives



you freedom. When I was taking the run up, he was telling me 'do what you feel, what you feel best'. So that's very important for any fast bowler, specially when you making your debut," he added.

Mayank was not alone to make his debut as all-rounder Nitish Reddy also got his debut cap in the opening match of the series. "For any cricketer in India, it's a big moment. Playing for the Indian cricket team is a dream-come-true moment. Obviously, there was nervousness but I enjoyed that. It was a very proud moment for me and my family as well," he said.

"There are senior players and I got a lot of experience as well from the coaching staff. Even in bowling as well getting some keen points. I love

this kind of atmosphere in the dressing room," Nitish, who scored 16 net out, added.

Mayank started his international career with a maiden before getting his first wicket in the next over. He returned with the figures of 1-21 in his four overs. "It felt good. I was not thinking that I am going to bowl a maiden over. Just wanted to live in that moment, enjoy that moment," he said.

Having worked with India bowling coach Morne Morkel previously with Lucknow, the pacer said, "It's very comfortable for me, I have been with him (Morkel) for the last three years. I know him, he knows me very well. So, it's very easy for me to work with him. He knows which things are better for me."

## Women's National Chess: Sarayu joins Padmini, Mary Ann as six share lead after Round 5

AGENCIES  
KARAIKUDI (T.N.), OCT 7

Top-seed Velpula Sarayu of Telangana defeated G. Mallar Arya with black pieces and joined overnight joint-leaders IM Padmini Rout, WIM Priyanka at the top with 4.5 points as six players shared the lead at the end of the 5th round of the 50th National Women's Chess Championship here on Monday.

Also sharing the top spot with them are former National Champion and Women's Grandmaster (WGM) Mary Ann Gomes, WGM P. Nandhidhaa, WIM Isha Sharma, who also moved to 4.5 points.

Padmini Rout and Priyanka had to settle for a draw in 35 moves on the top board. In the Sicilian Defence, Najdorf Variation



encounter, the endgame offered fewer chances for a win and the two players agreed to share the point.

That opened up a chance for Velpula Sarayu, who was back in contention when her opponent Arya Mallar lost an exchange in 21 moves, and the game ended in 41 moves in Sarayu's favour. In the fourth board game between experienced Mary Ann Gomes of the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) and veteran Swathi Ghate of Life Insurance Corpora-

tion (LIC), the former won the game in 39 moves, when Swathi conceded an exchange with no compensation. Isha Sharma of Karnataka defeated Mrittika Mallick of West Bengal to grab a share of the lead.

Trailing them at four points are WIM Mrudul Dehankar of Maharashtra, WIM Sakshi Chitlange, WGM Rakshitia Ravi of Tamil Nadu, Priyanka Nutakki of Andhra Pradesh, WFM Ganta Kheerthi, V. C. Nivedita, and V. Varshini of Tamil Nadu.

## 1st Test: Centuries by Masood, Shafique carry Pakistan to 328/4 against England

AGENCIES  
MULTAN, OCT 7

Solid centuries from opener Abdullah Shafique and skipper Shan Masood helped Pakistan finish Day One of the first Test against England on 328-4 in 86 overs at the Multan Cricket Stadium on Monday. On a placid pitch and sun shining brightly, the 253-run partnership between Masood (151) and Shafique (102) ensured the day belonged to Pakistan by the time stumps were called. For England, it was majorly a day of toiling hard and chasing leather, though Gus Atkinson took two wickets.

Atkinson, playing in an overseas Test match for the first time, had Saim



Ayub caught down leg in the fourth over. After that, he and the rest of the bowlers had to play a persistent game as Shafique and Masood exhibited aggressive and dominant batting displays in 56.1 overs for Pakistan, who are aiming to get their first Test win at home since February 2021.

While Masood was the aggressor in getting a century after last reaching the three-figure mark during the Covid-19 disruption in 2020 - when Pakistan toured England, Shafique had to be cautious at the start before finding his groove to get his Test century.

Pakistan also had luck on their side - Masood got his lbw decision against England debutant pacer Brydon Carse reversed via review on 16 and went on to get his first Test hundred as the team's skipper.

Shafique, who recorded six single-digit scores in his last seven Test innings, survived a run-out attempt on 34 when stand-in skipper Ollie Pope missed the chance to dismiss him and marched forward to end his lean run with a three-figure score.

Just as it felt like the set batters, despite struggling with cramps, would be unbeaten till the end of the day, they fell in the span of 17 balls - Shafique was dismissed by Atkinson, while

Masood fell to a returning Jack Leach.

An inventive Saud Shakeel and Babar Azam added 61 runs for the fourth wicket off 132 balls before the latter was trapped lbw by Chris Woakes.

Shakeel remained unbeaten on 35 alongside nightwatchman Naseem Shah, and Pakistan would hope he and the rest of the batters will add more runs on Day Two after Shafique and Masood laid the platform for a big first-innings total through their scintillating centuries.

Brief scores: Pakistan 328/4 in 86 overs (Shan Masood 151, Abdullah Shafique 102; Gus Atkinson 2-70) against England

## DD Sports, FanCode to broadcast bilateral series between India & Germany

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

DD Sports, the key public sports broadcaster in the country, along with FanCode, India's premier sports destination, will broadcast the highly anticipated two-match bilateral hockey series between the Indian Men's Hockey Team and the Germany Men's Hockey Team, scheduled to take place on October 23 and 24 at the iconic Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium here.

FanCode and DD Sports' combined reach will mean that hockey action will be

accessible to fans in every corner of the country, with interest around the game at an all-time high after India's successful Olympic campaign where the men's team finished with a bronze medal. Germany ended their campaign with a silver medal.

Hockey India President Dr Dilip Tirkey enthusiastically said, "We have had a fruitful partnership with FanCode through the Hockey India National Championships. They have played a vital role in making hockey more accessible to sports fans nationwide. With India vs.

Germany Test Series set to be streamed on their platform alongside telecast on DD Sports, one of the largest sports channels in India, this partnership will provide a significant boost to our mission of reaching a wider audience."

Hockey India Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh added, "We are thrilled to associate with FanCode and DD Sports for the two-match bilateral series. We are confident that this will enhance the viewing experience for passionate hockey fans in India and contribute significantly to our larger vision of making

the sport accessible and visible across India."

Yannick Colaco, Co-Founder, FanCode, said, "We are proud to extend our partnership with Hockey India with the bilateral series between India and Germany. The series showcases the best of international hockey, and we're excited to bring the action to hockey enthusiasts in India."

As part of Hockey India's vision to promote the sport across the country, this series marks the return of men's international hockey to the national capital after

a decade, with the last match played in January 2014 during the Hero Hockey World League Final - Men's Round 4.

Having successfully hosted the Men's Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai, the Women's Asian Champions Trophy, and the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifier in Ranchi, Hockey India has expanded its efforts beyond Odisha to grow hockey's presence in India. The organization is also gearing up to host the upcoming Women's Asian Champions Trophy in Rajgir, Bihar, in November 2024.

## BOB announces partnership with Tendulkar as its Global Brand Ambassador

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, OCT 7

Bank of Baroda on Monday announced that the Bank has signed cricketer legend Sachin Tendulkar as the Bank's Global Brand Ambassador.

The strategic partnership between Tendulkar and Bank of Baroda is built on a profound alignment of core values like excellence & trust. The partnership comes at an opportune time with Bank of Baroda poised to script the next phase of its transformation journey as it pursues a faster growth trajectory, leveraging Sachin's brand aura.

Bank of Baroda is launching its first campaign featuring Sachin called "Play The Masterstroke". The campaign

encourages people to play a masterstroke and score big to realise their financial aspirations by choosing a Bank that is trusted by millions and backed by a legacy of over a century, according to a media release. With his mass appeal cutting across all corners of the country and encompassing India's diverse demographics, Sachin will be positioned as Bank of Baroda's Brand Ambassador featuring in all the Bank's branding campaigns, consumer education & awareness programmes on financial literacy & fraud prevention and customer & employee engagement programmes. Bank of Baroda is present across 17 countries and Sachin as a global sporting icon will help elevate the Bank of Baroda brand in the international arena as well.

## Hockey Legends Flag Off 2024 SFA Championship Delhi

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 7

The second SFA Championship Delhi had a flag-off ceremony at the historic Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Monday featuring some legendary Olympians and hockey legends including Ashok Kumar, men's World Cup winner and son of the famous Olympian Major Dhyan Chand.

Other notable attendees were 1982 Asian Games silver medallists Vineet Kumar and Romeo James,

former Indian women's national team coach Arvind Chhabra, and former Olympian Ashok Dewan.

In his speech, Ashok Dhyan Chand, a member of the 1975 World Cup-winning team, encouraged young athletes to give their best on the field. He emphasised that dedication and hard work are key to making India a global sports power.

After the ceremony, the legends flagged off the event alongside the winning teams from last year's

SFA Championship.

Ashok Dhyan Chand praised the SFA Championship, saying, "It starts from childhood, from school itself. Developing talent from a young age shows results. SFA has been doing this since 2015, helping India become a sports superpower. The SFA School Championships is a great initiative, giving kids a chance to play in top stadiums boosts their morale."

"SFA is bringing thousands of children from schools to the playgrounds,

raising awareness and interest in sports. Using technology to track talent is essential, and should be applied to ages 3 to 18. With this data, we can better train young athletes and see results soon," he added.

Vineet Kumar, a Dhyan Chand Award recipient, and his team's goalkeeper Romeo James agreed with Ashok Dhyan Chand, noting that the SFA Championship is a great platform for children and should also cater to older age groups to nurture top-level talent.

## KISS sets new Guinness world record in Volleyball

AGENCIES  
BHUBANESWAR, OCT 7

The KISS Volleyball Festival has set a new Guinness World Record for players in a volleyball exhibition match, bringing together 430 participants in a single game.

The Volleyball festival was organized by the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB), Volleyball Foundation, Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), and Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT).



The event brought 430 players together for the Most Players in an Indoor Volleyball Exhibition Match, held on October 4, creating a history.

This remarkable feat

surpassed the previous record of 136 participants, with the earlier record being 294 players, set by the Association Sportive de Saint Genis Les Ollieres and the town of Saint

Genis Les Ollieres (both in France) during the Téléthon 2011 on December 3, 2011.

The record-breaking match lasted eight hours, with a total score of 736-756. Teams from the Brahmaputra Volleyball League also participated in the event.

Organized in partnership between the FIVB Volleyball Foundation, KIIT, and KISS, the festival attracted over 40,000 attendees, including 5,000 young volleyball fans.



## DLSA Samba celebrates "International Day of Elderly" at Muskan Foundation, Vijaypur

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, OCTOBER 07

Under the insightful directions of Chairperson District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Samba an awareness programme on "International Day of Elderly" was held at Muskan Foundation, Vijaypur. This programme was organized under the Chairmanship of Chairman DLSA Samba, Ravinder Nath Wattal and under the supervision of Secretary DLSA Samba, Sandeep Singh Sen.

The programme was attended by Medical Officer and his team of Vijaypur Hospital as well as members of the Muskan Foundation, Officers of LADCs, staff and PLVs of DLSA.

The resource person for the programme was Nisha Rani, Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel DLSA Samba, who threw light on



different schemes organized by Government of India.

Secretary DLSA in his speech highlighted the values of elders in our home and aware the participants about the theme of this day which is "Ageing with Dignity: the importance of strengthening Care and Support systems for older persons world-wide" and also the goal of the International

Day of Elderly. Proceedings of the programme was conducted by Versha Anthal, Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Samba.

Beside this, DLSA Samba also organize a Medical Camp in collaboration with Govt. Medical Hospital Vijaypur in which the medical team of Doctors did basic check up of the participants and gave them necessary First Aid medicines.

## General Observers, DEO finalize Arrangements for Vote Counting Process at Indoor Stadium B'la

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 7

In preparation for the vote counting for the General Legislative Assembly Elections scheduled for tomorrow, October 8, 2024, General Observers along with the District Election Officer (DEO) visited the Indoor Sports Stadium in Khawjabaugh, Baramulla, to inspect the final arrangements.

The DEO informed that seven counting halls have been established at the venue, with counting staff deployed through a randomization process in line with the Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines. All staff members have undergone necessary training to ensure the vote counting proceeds efficiently.

As part of the security and transparency measures, the entire process will be monitored through a robust CCTV surveillance



system installed across the venue.

A fully functional Media Centre has also been established to ensure real-time updates and communication with the public. Furthermore, mobile deposit counters have been set up to facilitate the smooth handling of deposits for safe keeping.

Additional facilities, including a communication room, public communication room, official communication room, and

an Observers room, have been established to ensure seamless coordination and communication throughout the event.

Essential services, including medical teams, fire and emergency services have also been deployed, and a Public Address System has been put in place to manage announcements during the counting process.

Meanwhile, a comprehensive mock run was conducted across all seven

counting halls at the venue, under the supervision of Election Observers and the District Election Officer (DEO), to ensure that staff is thoroughly prepared for the counting process.

The General Observers and DEO expressed satisfaction with the arrangements, reiterating the administration's commitment to a transparent, efficient, and secure vote counting process in full compliance with ECI guidelines.

## Wildlife department clarifies on video clip showing wild boars roaming on boulevard & peripheries

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 7

The Office of the Wildlife Warden, Central Division Srinagar has issued a clarification regarding the video clip showing wild boars roaming on boulevard and foreshore road that has gone viral on various social media platforms.

As per an official communication it has been given out that people have made various misinterpretations about this Wildlife specie. General public is hereby informed that the said specie existed in Dachigam National Park and its surrounding Conservation Reserves since Maharajas Time. During the harvesting of fruits season the species has been found usually roaming outside the peripheries of Dachigam National Park and its surrounding Conservation Reserves in search of their food.

Meanwhile, the Department of Wildlife Protection has immediately dispatched the rescue operation teams along with necessary tools, tranquilizing guns, nets, trapping cages etc all along the Boulevard and foreshore road and on its adjacent areas to drive them back towards the nearby forests.

General Public has been requested not to panic on this account and desist from spreading misinformation, every effort shall be made and it shall be ensured that no confrontation takes place.

Department of Wildlife Protection has deployed various teams to ensure safety of general public and prevention of agricultural crops from damage. General Public is also requested to kindly cooperate with the department and abide by the Do's and Don't suggested by the rescue teams who are on the job.

## PD&SJ Pulwama visits Special Jail Correctional Home



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
PULWAMA, OCTOBER 7

In compliance to the directions of JK Legal Services Authority, Naseer Ahmad Dar, Principal District and Sessions Judge (PD&SJ) Pulwama, Secretary DLSA Pulwama along with Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs) Pulwama and Shopian visited Special Jail Correctional Home Pulwama.

During the visit, the PD&SJ along with team took stock of facilities avail-

able to the jail inmates and also reviewed the working of Legal Aid Clinic at Sub-Jail Pulwama. He also took feedback about their grievances.

On spot directions were passed to the Superintendent Sub-Jail Pulwama with regard to addressing facilities, cleanliness and other related issues faced by the jail inmates. The inmates were also assured that other issues raised by them will be taken up with concerned authority.

## Inter-Division UT level tournament concludes at GHSS Girls Kishtwar



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 07

The Inter-Division UT Level Tournament organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports, Kishtwar concluded in a grand success at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Girls Kishtwar. The tournament brought together young athletes from across Jammu & Kashmir to compete in thrilling matches of Kho-Kho (U/17 and U/19 Boys) and Volleyball (U/14 Girls) showcasing exceptional talent and competitive spirit.

The event was meticulously supervised by District Youth Services and

Sports Officer (DYSSO) Kishtwar Jaffer Haider Sheikh. The tournament fostered not only athletic competition but also camaraderie among participants from diverse regions.

The Chief Guest at the closing ceremony Chief Education Officer Kishtwar Javaid Ahmed Kichloo extended heartfelt congratulations to all participants for their enthusiasm and dedication.

In his address Javed lauded the efforts of the athletes, coaches, and organizing staff commending the Department of Youth Services & Sports Kishtwar for its disciplined and hardworking team.

DYSSO also took the opportunity to express his gratitude and pride in his team, specifically, PEMS, PETS, REKS, GMS, and NYC members.

In Kho-Kho U/17 Kashmir Division triumphed over Jammu where as in Kho-Kho U/19 Boys, the Jammu Division secured victory against Kashmir.

In the Volleyball U/14 Girls Finale, Jammu dominated the volleyball finals winning against Kashmir with a commanding 9-point advantage.

The closing ceremony featured a prize distribution where the winners were celebrated for their outstanding performances and sportsmanship.

## Alok Kumar inspects Assembly Complex in Srinagar



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 7

Principal Secretary, Estates Department, Alok Kumar, today conducted an extensive visit to the Assembly Complex in Srinagar.

Director Estates Kashmir/Jammu, Tariq Hussain Ganai along with other senior officials from both the Assembly and Estates Departments accompanied the Principal Secretary.

During the visit, Kumar thoroughly inspected various sections of the Assembly Complex and assessed the existing infrastruc-

ture and facilities for the upcoming Legislative sessions. He underscored the significance of the Assembly Complex as a vital hub for legislative activities, highlighting the necessity for ongoing maintenance and modernization to cater to changing demands.

Additionally, the Principal Secretary engaged in discussions with the officers of the Assembly and Estates Departments to explore strategies aimed at enhancing both the functionality and aesthetic appeal of the Complex prior J&K Assembly Sessions.

## Second Randomisation of Counting Staff held at Shopian



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 7

The second Randomisation of the counting staff for 36-Zainapora and 37-Shopian Assembly Constituencies was today conducted here for the vote counting to be held on 8th of October, 2024.

The exercise was conducted by District Election Officer (DEO) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar at Mini Secretariat Shopian in presence of Counting Observer, Zainapora, Jeevan Babu K and Counting Observer, Shopian, Roohi Khan and respective ROs.

In the process, staff members designated as Counting Supervisors, Counting Assistants and Micro Observers were allotted to Assembly Constituencies of 36-Shopian and 37-Zainapora.

The Randomisation was done through dedicated software where the counting staff was allotted randomly among the two ACs of the district.

Third randomisation shall be done on the Day of counting, 8th October, at 5:00 A.M in which tables shall be allotted to the counting staff.

ADDC, ADC, ROs, Dy. DEO, DIO and other officers were also present on the occasion.

### KNOW DENGUE FOR NO DENGUE Dengue can be Prevented

DENGUE	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	PREVENTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dengue is a viral disease.</li> <li>It is transmitted by the bite of Aedes mosquito.</li> <li>Dengue Fever is a severe, flu-like illness.</li> <li>Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) &amp; Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS) are more severe forms of disease, which may even cause death if left untreated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High fever.</li> <li>Frontal headache.</li> <li>Pain behind the eyes which worsens with eye movement.</li> <li>Muscle and joint pains.</li> <li>Rashes on the body.</li> <li>Pain abdomen.</li> <li>Nausea and vomiting.</li> <li>Bleeding &amp; low B.P in severe cases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid water stagnation in &amp; around the house.</li> <li>Empty water reservoirs regularly like storage utensils, air coolers, plant pots, drums, flower pots and bird baths etc.</li> <li>Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.</li> <li>Use mosquito repellents/ Anti mosquito creams.</li> <li>Do not wear clothes that expose arms and legs.</li> <li>Use mosquito nets while sleeping.</li> <li>Use netted screens for doors &amp; windows to prevent entry of mosquitoes</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Person suspected of having Dengue should visit nearby Health Facility.</li> <li>The tests and treatment are available free of cost at Govt. Health Institutions.</li> <li>Don't take pain killer and any other medicine without consultation of Doctor.</li> </ul>		
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY STATE MALARIOLOGIST/SPO NVBDCP, J&amp;K, DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU</p>		