

**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 headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## Omar meets LG Sinha at Raj Bhawan, stakes claim on Govt formation

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 11

National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah Friday met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to present a letter of support from his party, Congress, CPI(M), AAP and Independent candidates. Omar also staked claim on government formation but stated that the oath ceremony may take a few more days and would likely to be held on Wednesday as LG office will forward papers to first president's office in New Delhi and Home



Ministry. "Today, I met LG and presented the letters of support from NC, Congress, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and independents. I also stake a claim on government formation. I requested the LG to give us a date so that we can take oath and the new government starts functioning. We were told it would take a few days," Omar told reporters after his return from Rajbhawan, as per the news agency. He said it is not that one elected government

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## Around 150 militants waiting at launchpads across LoC: BSF officer

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 11

Around 150 militants are waiting at launchpads across the Line of Control (LoC) to infiltrate into the Kashmir valley as winter approaches, but security forces would foil any such bid, a senior BSF officer said on Friday. "Attempts of infiltration continue to take place. Based on the intelligence inputs we receive from various agencies, we coordinate with the army to establish a domination plan along the border. "We also keep in mind the number of terrorists at



the launching pads, which helps us shape our strategy and domination plan to ensure we foil any plans," BSF Inspector General (Kashmir Frontier) Ashok Yadav told reporters here. He said the security forces would ensure any infiltration attempt is thwarted. Asked how many militants were waiting at terror launchpads now, he said, "The number

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## With Omar set to take oath as CM, President's rule to be revoked from J&K after more than 6 years

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 11

The Union Government is required to revoke the President's rule in Jammu & Kashmir before Omar Abdullah-led government takes oath, sources said. Officials familiar with the matter told news agency that the President Droupadi Murmu would revoke the proclamation issued on October 31, 2019 to impose Central Rule in Jammu & Kashmir under section 73 of Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019. "The proclamation of the President's Rule needs to be revoked to pave the way for elected

government to take oath," they said, adding that the proclamation needs to be revoked because it had suspended all the provisions of the Reorganisation Act dealing with J&K Assembly and the elected government. They added that revoking of the President's rule from J&K also requires concurrence of the Union Cabinet. On October 31, 2019 when Jammu & Kashmir was reorganized into two Union Territories, the Union Home Ministry issued a presidential order under Section 73 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019

imposing President's Rule in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. "Since the Legislative Assembly in the new UT of Jammu and Kashmir is not in existence, in order to avoid any constitutional vacuum, based on the report of the Governor of erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, a presidential order was issued on 31st October, 2019 under Section 73 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 imposing President's Rule in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir," the Union Government had said on November 20, 2019

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## NC to send Dr Farooq to Rajya Sabha once J&K Assembly shapes up in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEP 11

With stage set for the new J&K Assembly after a decade, National Conference chief Dr Farooq Abdullah is preparing himself to represent the party in Rajya Sabha, highly placed sources told news agency, Friday. A senior NC leader confirmed the development stating that the party would send NC chief to Rajya Sabha. "He is a guiding force for us. Once the new Assembly is formed, elections would be held for Rajya Sabha by the Election Commission of India (ECI). There is a consensus within the party that Dr Farooq sahab should go to Rajya Sabha to represent NC there and also rake the issues of people of J&K," he said. Sources said that once the Assembly would be



formed, for the first time in the Union Territory, J&K will have representation in the Rajya Sabha after three-and-a-half years. About the procedure, the sources in NC said

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## Congress says High Command to choose CLP leader in J&K, submits letter of support to NC

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 11

Jammu & Kashmir Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra announced on Friday that the central leadership will decide the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader in J&K. Speaking to reporters at the party headquarters here, Karra, according to the news agency said, "We have unanimously decided to grant authority to the central leadership to choose our leader in Jammu & Kashmir." He also confirmed that the party has submitted a letter of support to the

National Conference (NC). When asked about Congress's demands from its alliance partner NC, Karra replied, "We have no particular demands. Keeping the spirit of the INDIA alliance alive, we are extending our support to NC." He called for a collaborative governance model, saying, "We will first have an official discussion with NC and wait for the outcome." Karra reiterated that the Congress's fight against the BJP is not about minor issues but aims at addressing larger concerns. "Our motive is to combat

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## AAP announces support for Omar's NC in J&K, submits letter to LG

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 11

Aam Admi Party (AAP) on Friday said that it will extend support to Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) after the NC-Congress alliance emerges victorious in the recently concluded assembly election in the Union Territory. The formal letter of support has been submitted to the Lt Governor by the party. Jammu and Kashmir has one MLA from AAP. Party candidate Mehraj Malik has won the Doda assembly constituency by 4538 votes against BJP's Gajay Singh Rana. In Jammu and Kashmir National Conference-Congress alliance secured an absolute majority in the Union Territory by winning 49 seats, with the former taking 42 and the latter 6 seats. On Thursday, The JKNC unanimously elected Omar Abdullah as the leader of its Legislative Party.

## Rusted mortar shell recovered in Samba

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, JAMMU, OCT 11

A rusted mortar shell was detected by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Friday, officials said. The people found a rusted mortar shell in JDA Colony in Bari Brahmna and informed the security forces, they said. The bomb disposal squad has been called to defuse the shell.

## Lt Governor greets people on the eve of Vijayadashami

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 11

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the occasion of Vijayadashami, which will be celebrated tomorrow. In a message, the Lt Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami, I convey my warm greetings and good wishes to all. The festival of Vijayadashami signifies the triumph of good over evil and fosters

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## India signs host country agreement with global biofuels alliance

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 11

India on Friday signed the Host Country Agreement (HCA) with the Global Biofuels Alliance, an initiative launched during India's G20 Presidency last year to further encourage biofuels uptake globally. The agreement was signed by Dammu Ravi, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs and Pankaj Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as Interim Director General of GBA. The inking of the agreement comes after the Union Cabinet on Octo-



ber 3 approved signing and ratification of the Host Country Agreement for setting up its Secretariat in India. The HCA shall facilitate GBA to set up its Secretariat in India, comprising both Indian and international staff,

enabling GBA to fulfil its intended objectives, a statement said. Further, the HCA will provide necessary legal status to GBA, including immunities and privileges under the United

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## Centre will respond at appropriate time on J&K statehood: Kishan Reddy

AGENCIES  
HYDERABAD, OCT 11

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy on Friday said that the Centre would respond at an appropriate time to the demand for restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. However, he asserted Article 370 will not come back to Jammu and Kashmir. He was responding to a query on National Conference seeking restoration of statehood during an informal interaction with mediapersons here. Reddy, who was in charge of BJP for the Assembly polls in Jammu



and Kashmir, said with the efforts of the Centre, the elections were conducted peacefully and there was also no necessity to conduct a repoll. The BJP's performance was 'creditworthy' and it got more seats than in the

past, he said. The polling percentages in J&K were higher than even in Hyderabad (Assembly polls) where only about 50 per cent of voter turnout was registered, the union

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## Shagun youngest among newly elected J&K MLAs, Rather oldest at 80: ADR

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 11

BJP's 29-year-old Shagun Parihar is the youngest member of the newly elected Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, while National Conference veteran Abdul Rahim Rather aged 80 is the oldest member. Parihar, who lost her father and uncle in a terror attack in 2018, is the only member of assembly below the age of 30 while Rather, the seven-time MLA from Chara-e-Sharief, is the only octogenarian in the house, data compiled



by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) reveals. According to the ADR data, the average age of an MLA in Jammu and Kashmir is 55.71 years, which is

reflected in the number of legislators with 32 falling in the age group of 51 to 60 years. Among the 10 youngest newly-elected MLAs are PDP's Waheed Para (Pul-

wama), Aam Admi Party's Mehraj Malik (Doda), NC's Mehar Ali (Kangan), independent Rameshwar Singh (Bani) and BJP's Sunil Bhadraraj (Ramnagar). Congress MLA from Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat at 77 is the second oldest member followed by CPI(M)'s Kulgam MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tariqami who is 75 years old. National Conference's (NC) Eidgah MLA Mubarak Gul aged 73, while Beerwah MLA Mohammad Shafi Wani (NC), Pattan MLA Javid Riyaz (NC) and Anantnag MLA P M

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## GoC visits forward areas in Doda, reviews operational preparedness

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 11

A senior Army officer on Friday visited the hinterland areas and reviewed the security situation and

operational preparedness of the troops deployed on ground zero in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district. Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva,

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## International Child Girl Day celebrated in Rajouri

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 11

The International Girl Child Day 2024 was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Rajouri, underscoring the significance of gender equality and the empowerment of girls. This year's theme, "Girls' Vision for the Future", set the tone for an inspiring event held at the PWD Dak Bungalow, with Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma presiding over the celebration.

The event, organised by the District Administration Rajouri in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, featured a range of activities aimed at raising awareness about the challenges faced by girls and promoting their rights.

The celebration also honored distinguished women achievers from various fields, who shared their stories to inspire the next generation of girls.

In his address, Deputy



Commissioner Abhishek Sharma emphasized the pivotal role that girls play in society, stressing the importance of education for their empowerment.

He also highlighted several government initiatives, such as the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" scheme, which aims to uplift girls and encourage their participation across all spheres of life.

Acknowledging the collaborative efforts of the District Administration and the Social Welfare Department, Abhishek Sharma praised ongoing programs that focus on

healthcare, education, and economic empowerment of girls and women. He reiterated the administration's commitment to creating an inclusive environment where girls can thrive and contribute to the development of the community.

The event witnessed a strong turnout, with over 450 participants, including students, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), ASHA workers, and members of civil society. Among the notable attendees were District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Abdul Raheem, Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) Aditi Singhaal, Tehsil Social Welfare Officers Shahid Mumtaz (Darhal), Rahul Puri (Sunderbani), Khurshid Malik (Kotranka), and Waqar Khan from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA). Representatives from the One Stop Centre and the Hub for Empowerment of Women were also present.

## CEO Samba organises assessment camp for Purmandal Zone

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, OCTOBER 11

Under directions of Directorate of Samagra Shiksha, J&K, Chief Education Officer Samba in collaboration with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), started Assessment camp at GMS Smailpur for Children with Special Needs (CWSNs) under the age group of 06 to 18 years of Zone Purmandal on day 3.

The event witnessed a significant turnout, with participation of Zonal Education Planning Officer Purmandal Mohd. Rashid Alam and experts from ALIMCO Kanpur, along with numerous CWSN students, parents, District Coordinator IED, Zonal Coordinators, Special Education Teach-

ers and District Level Samagra Shiksha Team.

Mohd. Rashid Alam, ZEPO Purmandal started the program and engaged in one-to-one interactions with CWSN students and their parents, emphasizing the critical importance of these assessments.

As of today, the camp has successfully assessed and 52 CWSN students of different categories i.e. locomotor impairment, hearing impairment, visually impaired, intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, multiple disabilities, mental illness, and autism.

Parents expressed their gratitude to the organizers for facilitating this beneficial initiative in district Samba, underscoring the positive impact of such camps on the community.

## International Day of the Girl Child celebrated across Poonch District

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, OCTOBER 11

Educational institutions across Poonch district observed the International Day of the Girl Child with a series of events emphasizing the importance of girls' empowerment and education.

A major event was held at Shri Krishan Chander Memorial Government Degree College, Poonch, where Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal graced the event as chief guest.

In his address, the DC highlighted the critical role education plays in fostering gender equality, stating, "Empowering girls through education is key to building a stronger society."

Students gave speeches on the significance of supporting girls in overcoming societal challenges, while also discussing the



impact of government schemes designed for their welfare.

A parallel function was organized at Dinanath Rafiq Memorial Model Higher Secondary School for Girls, Poonch, with Chief Education Officer Lal Hussain as the chief guest. He praised the efforts of parents and educators in promoting girls' education, mentioning the success of initiatives like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. The students at the school also presented colorful cultural performances, underscoring the importance of girls' education.

Addressing the gathering, District Social Welfare Officer Wakil Bhat spoke on various schemes avail-

able for the girl child, encouraging students to take advantage of these opportunities.

Institutions across the district held additional activities such as debates, essay-writing, and poster-making competitions to engage students on issues concerning girls' empowerment.

A Taekwondo competition for girls was also organized at the Sports Stadium Poonch, attracting enthusiastic participation from students across various schools. The event aimed to promote self-defense skills and physical fitness among young girls, empowering them with confidence and resilience. Participants showcased their martial arts abilities in a series of exciting matches, with the winners being awarded medals and certificates of appreciation.

## CEO Poonch conducts surprise visits to schools, emphasizes quality education, hygiene

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, SEPTEMBER 11

Chief Education Officer Poonch, Lal Hussain, conducted a series of surprise inspections across several schools in the Poonch Zone today, including MS Dehrian, MS Sola Jugal, HS Degwar, and MS Degwar, among others.

The visits aimed to evaluate the overall functioning of the institutions and ensure that quality education is being imparted at all levels.

During his visit, CEO Hussain interacted with students, inquiring about their progress in completing the syllabus. He emphasized the need for timely syllabus completion, especially in primary and pre-primary classes, to ensure that students in this border

district receive a strong foundation for future learning. He urged teachers to maintain high standards and directed them to prioritize the academic needs of younger students. In addition to academics, Lal Hussain inspected several school kitchens, where he closely examined the hygiene standards and the quality of food being provided under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme. He reiterated the importance of maintaining clean kitchens and ensuring nutritious meals for the students, as this directly impacts their health and learning capacity.

The CEO also met with teaching faculty and school heads, reviewing the status of local funds and the management of cash books. He instructed the school heads to

utilize funds judiciously and transparently. Lal Hussain stressed the importance of financial accountability, stating that all resources must be deployed efficiently to improve the overall school environment and educational infrastructure.

Additionally, the CEO directed school heads to strictly implement the academic calendar issued by the Directorate of School Education.

In several instances, Hussain noted lapses in punctuality and directed school heads to maintain strict discipline among the staff to ensure the smooth functioning of the institutions.

CEO was accompanied by Vijay Kumar, ZEPO Poonch, and senior officers from the education department.

## Shailendra Kumar reviews progress on CSS, CAPEX, NABARD, HADP projects

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 11

Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar, today held a comprehensive review meeting to review the physical and financial progress on projects being executed under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), CAPEX budget, NABARD and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

Mission Director HADP, Director Agriculture Jammu, Director Horticulture Jammu, Director Command Area Development Jammu, Director Finance APD, Secretary APD, Director Planning APD, Managing Director JKAGROS, Director Research SKUAST-J, Joint Directors of Agriculture and allied departments, Deputy Director Planning, Scientists from SKUAST-J, Chief Agriculture Officers and Chief Horticulture officers from all districts of Jammu division attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the officers presented detailed updates on implementation status, challenges



encountered and strategies to expedite pending activities under these schemes.

The Principal Secretary emphasized the importance of ensuring timely execution and fund utilization under all schemes, while also addressing challenges faced in project implementation.

Shailendra Kumar reviewed the significant advancements made under HADP, which has been instrumental in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and improving farmers' livelihoods. He observed

that special attention has been given to ensure the expenditure under HADP, CSS and CAPEX projects align with the overall goal of infrastructure development in the sector. He also had detailed discussion on CSS projects, focusing on key flagship schemes like PDMC, SMAM, RAD, RKVY, PKVY, ATMA, NFSM and others aimed at boosting rural prosperity.

The Principal Secretary directed all the departments to work in close coordination to meet the set targets for the fiscal year and ensure the ben-

efits reach the grassroots level. He also stressed the need for proper monitoring mechanisms and regular updates on the progress of all projects.

The review included a specific assessment of the Baba Jitto Irrigation Project, with a call for increased focus on Rainfed Area Development.

The meeting concluded with an actionable plan aimed at accelerating the completion of ongoing projects, reinforcing the commitment to enhance the agricultural ecosystem in the region.

DC Poonch reviews Capex Budget, stresses timely completion of development projects

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, OCTOBER 11

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today chaired a crucial meeting to review the progress of projects under the District Capex budget for 2024-25 at DC office.

Chief Planning Officer, SE PWD (R&B), Assistant Commissioner Development, ACP, XEN Pwd, XEN Jal Shakti XEN Rew, CEO Poonch and heads of other key departments were present in the meeting.

DC Poonch emphasized the importance of ensuring that all ongoing projects are completed within the stipulated timeframes and maintained to high standards of quality. He directed district officers to accelerate the pace of work and ensure that pending projects are started promptly.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the officials to fast-track the tendering process for the remaining projects and ensure smooth execution moving forward.

## DC Bandipora reviews progress of Ring Road Phase II Project in Sumbal



crore has been disbursed to local landowners as part of the compensation and pending 32 cases shall be taken on case to case basis.

During the inspection, the DC said that Ring Road project is vital for improving connectivity and enhancing infrastructure, and urged all stakeholders to work collaboratively to overcome any challenges and ensure the project progresses smoothly

besides adhering to project completion time line.

Among others, Tehsildar Sumbal, officers from R&B and representatives from Almondz Consultancy and RRPL company besides other concerned were present.

In addition to the Ring Road inspection, the DC also visited the under-construction hospital building at S. K Bala and directed the Chief Medical Officer and concerned executing agency to prioritize and complete the remaining work to make the facility operational.

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 11

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Shabir Ahmad Wani, and SDM Sumbal Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh on Friday visited the Ring Road Phase II project sites to assess its progress.

The inspection focused on a 7-kilometer stretch from Sumbal Bridge to Sarai Dangerpora, critical for enhancing connectivity for the prestigious ring road project.

During the visit, the

Project Director NHAI, Srinagar, briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the ongoing works and status of progress.

The DC emphasized the importance of facilitating the project's swift execution and directed the social forestry department to clear trees along the road embankments besides instructed the SDM and Tehsildar Sumbal to facilitate NHAI with the relocation of utilities.

He urged the executing agency to expedite the work to ensure timely completion of the project.

It was informed that, approximately Rs. 46

## International Girl Child Day 2024 celebrated with Enthusiasm in Kishtwar

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 11

District Social Welfare Department in collaboration with the Education Department and the District Hub for Empowerment of Women organised an event at Government Higher Secondary School (Girls) Kishtwar to celebrate the International Girl Child Day.

The event was organized under the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Kishtwar, Zubair Ahmed Lone.

The celebration was a significant step towards promoting the rights of the girl child, emphasizing gender equality, and raising awareness about the importance of empowering young girls.

A series of activities, including debates, a painting competition, a plantation drive, and cultural performances, were organized to engage students and the community in highlighting the role of girls in shaping the future of society.

The event kicked off with a Debate Competition, where students



presented their views on gender equality and the significance of providing equal opportunities to girls in all aspects of life. Their well-articulated speeches not only captivated the audience but also underscored the importance of challenging stereotypes and fostering an inclusive environment for girls to thrive.

Simultaneously, a Painting Competition was conducted, where young artists showcased their creative talents by illustrating themes that represented the aspirations, challenges, and dreams of the girl child. The vibrant artwork

reflected a collective vision for a society where girls are educated, empowered, and free to pursue their goals without hindrance.

In a symbolic gesture towards environmental conservation and the nurturing spirit of the girl child, a Plantation Drive was carried out within the school premises. Students, along with faculty and dignitaries, planted saplings to signify growth, resilience, and sustainability.

The drive also aimed to instill a sense of responsibility in young girls towards preserving nature for future generations.

The day's celebrations

were further enlivened by Cultural Performances, which saw girls from the school perform traditional dances and songs that celebrated their cultural heritage and the role of women in society. The performances added a vibrant touch to the event and highlighted the diverse talents of the students.

In addition to the competitions and performances, an Awareness Programme on the 'SHE Box' and 'Gender Sensitization' was held.

The SHE Box, a government initiative aimed at addressing sexual harassment at the workplace, was introduced to students, teachers, and participants. Information about the portal, its functionality, and the process of reporting incidents of sexual harassment was shared to ensure that young girls are aware of the tools available to protect their rights and safety.

The gender sensitization session by District Coordinator Mansoor Mustafa along with the Resource persons from NCERT, Sudeep Sharma and Diljeet Palsar focused

on creating a deeper understanding of gender-related issues, including the importance of challenging gender-based discrimination and breaking societal barriers that prevent girls from realizing their full potential. The session empowered participants to become advocates for gender equality and work towards creating an inclusive society that upholds the dignity and rights of girls and women.

Speaking on the occasion, District Social Welfare Officer Kishtwar, Zubair Ahmed Lone, lauded the efforts of the students, teachers, and organizers for making the event a success.

The event concluded on a high note, with a pledge by all attendees to continue advocating for the rights of the girl child and ensuring that gender equality remains at the forefront of social development in Kishtwar. At the end, all participants who took part in the debate, painting competition, and other activities were felicitated with certificates and tokens of appreciation.



# FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2024

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festival, Northern Railway, in association with other zonal railway, has planned to run the following Festival Special Trains as per schedule given below:-

## LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS ORIGINATING/TERMINATING IN NORTHERN RAILWAY

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency / Day	Period
02252	New Delhi	08:25	Patna Jn	20:00	Tri-weekly	Wednesday, Friday, Sunday
02251	Patna Jn	07:30	New Delhi	19:00	Tri-weekly	Thursday, Saturday, Monday
02270	Lucknow	14:15	Chhapra	21:30	6 Days a week	Except Tuesday
02269	Chhapra	23:00	Lucknow	06:30	6 Days a week	Except Tuesday
02248	New Delhi	23:25	Patna Jn	20:30	Tri-weekly	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
02247	Patna Jn	07:30	New Delhi	19:35	Tri-weekly	Wednesday, Friday, Sunday
04052	New Delhi	14:20	Jaynagar	15:40	Date Wise	Sat, Tue, Fri, Mon
04051	Jaynagar	18:00	New Delhi	18:50	Date Wise	Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue
04054	New Delhi	14:20	Barauni Jn	11:00	Date Wise	Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue
04053	Barauni Jn	12:30	New Delhi	09:10	Date Wise	Mon, Thu, Sun, Wed
02250	New Delhi	23:55	Patna Jn	16:40	Weekly	Thursday
02249	Patna Jn	17:50	New Delhi	11:00	Weekly	Friday
04073	Howrah Jn	04:20	Delhi Jn	05:00	Date Wise	Saturday
04071	New Delhi	23:45	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:40	Date Wise	Saturday
04072	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	21:20	New Delhi	09:30	Date Wise	Sunday
04082	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	21:20	New Delhi	09:30	Date Wise	Saturday
04075	New Delhi	23:45	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:40	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday
04076	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	21:20	New Delhi	09:30	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Monday
04498	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:30	Ballia	13:30	Weekly	Sunday
04497	Ballia	18:40	Anand Vihar Terminal	14:25	Weekly	Monday
04022	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:40	Sitamari	15:45	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Friday
04021	Sitamari	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:05	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Saturday
04032	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:15	Saharsa Jn	10:30	5 days a week	Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun
04031	Saharsa Jn	13:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:10	5 days a week	Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sun
04624	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:45	Varanasi Jn	23:55	Weekly	Sunday
04623	Varanasi Jn	05:30	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:25	Weekly	Tuesday
04080	Delhi Jn	19:30	Varanasi Jn	09:45	Tri-Weekly	Monday, Thursday, Saturday
04079	Varanasi Jn	18:25	Delhi Jn	08:50	Tri-Weekly	Tuesday, Friday, Sunday
04530	Bhatinda Jn	20:50	Varanasi Jn	17:30	Bi-weekly	Monday, Friday
04529	Varanasi Jn	20:40	Bhatinda Jn	17:00	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Saturday
04096	Anand Vihar Terminal	09:00	Ayodhya Cantt	22:00	Tri-Weekly	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
04095	Ayodhya Cantt	09:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	22:30	Tri-Weekly	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
04518	Chandigarh	23:15	Gorakhpur	18:20	Weekly	Thursday
04519	Gorakhpur	22:05	Chandigarh	14:10	Weekly	Friday
04060	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:30	Jaynagar	15:15	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday
04059	Jaynagar	17:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:55	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Saturday
04068	Delhi Jn	19:30	Darbhanga Jn	16:30	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday
04067	Darbhanga Jn	18:00	Delhi Jn	16:35	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Saturday
04044	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Gorakhpur	14:00	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday
04043	Gorakhpur	17:25	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:40	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday
04217	Varanasi Jn	06:25	Lucknow Jn	11:45	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
04218	Lucknow Jn	16:30	Varanasi Jn	21:50	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
04010	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:45	Jogbani	05:20	Weekly	Tuesday
04009	Jogbani	09:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:05	Weekly	Thursday
04678	Firozpur Cantt Jn	13:25	Patna Jn	17:00	Weekly	Wednesday
04677	Patna Jn	18:45	Firozpur Cantt Jn	22:40	Weekly	Thursday
04211	Varanasi Jn	14:50	Chandigarh	07:45	Weekly	Saturday
04212	Chandigarh	09:30	Varanasi Jn	01:20	Weekly	Sunday
04553	Saharanpur	04:40	Ambala Cant Jn	06:45	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
04554	Ambala Cant Jn	20:20	Saharanpur	22:30	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
04682	Jammu Tawi	23:20	Kolkata	13:00	Weekly	Tuesday
04681	Kolkata	23:45	Jammu Tawi	12:30	Weekly	Thursday
04078	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:55	Patna Jn	16:25	Weekly	Monday
04077	Patna Jn	17:50	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:00	Weekly	Tuesday
04646	Jammu Tawi	05:45	Barauni Jn	12:10	Weekly	Thursday
04645	Barauni Jn	15:15	Jammu Tawi	22:30	Weekly	Friday
04038	Delhi Jn	19:10	Azamgarh	11:30	Weekly	Sunday
04037	Azamgarh	13:30	Delhi Jn	06:10	Weekly	Monday
04312	Haridwar Jn	12:30	Howrah Jn	17:10	Weekly	Thursday
04311	Howrah Jn	19:00	Haridwar Jn	23:30	Weekly	Friday
04314	Haridwar Jn	12:30	Muzaffarpur Jn	07:30	Weekly	Friday
04313	Muzaffarpur Jn	09:00	Haridwar Jn	05:30	Weekly	Saturday
04058	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Muzaffarpur Jn	21:15	Bi-weekly	Monday, Thursday
04057	Muzaffarpur Jn	23:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday
04062	Anand Vihar Terminal	09:00	Barauni Jn	06:30	Weekly	Sunday
04061	Barauni Jn	08:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:10	Weekly	Monday
02246	Hazrat Nizamuddin	23:55	Patna Jn	16:40	Bi-weekly	Monday, Wednesday
02245	Patna Jn	17:50	Hazrat Nizamuddin	10:50	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Thursday
04526	Sirhind Jn	11:25	Saharsa Jn	17:00	Weekly	Monday
04525	Saharsa Jn	19:15	Ambala Cantt Jn	22:20	Weekly	Tuesday
04006	Delhi Jn	23:05	Jaynagar	23:45	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday
04005	Jaynagar	01:30	Delhi Jn	01:30	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Sunday
04048	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:20	Katihar Jn	15:00	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday
04047	Katihar Jn	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	17:50	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Saturday
04070	New Delhi	00:20	Rajgir	21:00	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday
04069	Rajgir	22:50	New Delhi	23:10	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday
02262	New Delhi	00:20	Darbhanga Jn	21:15	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday
02261	Darbhanga Jn	23:20	New Delhi	20:15	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday
04224	Lucknow Jn	15:10	Tatanagar Jn	08:50	Date Wise	Wednesday
04223	Tatanagar Jn	11:00	Lucknow Jn	04:55	Date Wise	Thursday
04226	Lucknow Jn	15:40	Tatanagar Jn	09:10	Date Wise	Sunday
04225	Tatanagar Jn	11:00	Lucknow Jn	04:55	Date Wise	Monday

## LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS PASSING THROUGH NORTHERN RAILWAY NETWORK

03575	Asansol Jn	10:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:05	Weekly	Friday
03576	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:15	Asansol Jn	10:20	Weekly	Saturday
03435	Malda Town	09:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	14:10	Weekly	Monday
03436	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:45	Malda Town	23:30	Weekly	Tuesday
03255	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Thursday
03256	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:20	Patna Jn	17:20	Bi-weekly	Monday, Friday
02391	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Weekly	Saturday
02392	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:20	Patna Jn	17:20	Weekly	Sunday
03257	Danapur	07:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:30	Weekly	Sunday
03258	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Danapur	20:45	Weekly	Monday
05219	Muzaffarpur Jn	13:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	06:00	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
05220	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:00	Muzaffarpur Jn	00:45	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
05109	Chhapra	17:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:50	Weekly	Wednesday
05110	Anand Vihar Terminal	12:55	Chhapra	06:45	Weekly	Thursday
05023	Gorakhpur	21:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:15	Weekly	Sunday
05024	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:15	Gorakhpur	04:45	Weekly	Monday
05301	Mau Jn	04:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:30	Weekly	Thursday
05302	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:25	Mau Jn	17:45	Weekly	Friday
05005	Gorakhpur	14:40	Amritsar Jn	09:30	Weekly	Wednesday
05006	Amritsar Jn	12:45	Gorakhpur	08:50	Weekly	Thursday
05049	Chhapra	09:55	Amritsar Jn	09:30	Weekly	Friday
05050	Amritsar Jn	12:45	Chhapra	14:00	Weekly	Saturday
02525	Kamakhya	22:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:50	Weekly	Friday
02526	Anand Vihar Terminal	17:20	Kamakhya	03:40	Weekly	Sunday
05671	Guwahati	15:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:50	Weekly	Wednesday
05672	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:45	Guwahati	14:15	Weekly	Friday
05734	Katihar Jn	11:40	Amritsar Jn	00:10	Weekly	Thursday
05733	Amritsar Jn	04:25	Katihar Jn	15:00	Weekly	Saturday
03413	Malda Town	07:10	New Delhi	07:30	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Sunday
03414	New Delhi	10:30	Malda Town	07:55	Bi-weekly	Friday, Monday
03483	Bhagalpur	11:00	New Delhi	07:10	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday
03484	New Delhi	10:30	Bhagalpur	04:10	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday
05565	Saharsa Jn	19:30	Sirhind Jn	00:05	Weekly	Thursday
05566	Sirhind Jn	02:00	Saharsa Jn	09:45	Weekly	Saturday
03107	Sealdah	00:10	Lucknow Jn	00:10	Weekly	Saturday
03108	Lucknow Jn	01:40	Sealdah	23:50	Weekly	Sunday

09657	Daurai (via Barabanki Jn)	15:00	Barhni	13:25	Weekly	Saturday
09658	Barhni (via Barabanki Jn)	19:15	Daurai	19:20	Weekly	Sunday
03423	Bhagalpur	13:55	Haridwar Jn	17:55	Weekly	Monday
03424	Haridwar Jn	19:55	Bhagalpur	21:20	Weekly	Tuesday
05736	Katihar Jn	21:00	Amritsar Jn	09:45	Weekly	Wednesday
05735	Amritsar Jn	13:25	Katihar Jn	23:45	Weekly	Friday
05047	Banaras	22:00	Ghaziabad	11:45	Weekly	Tuesday
05048	Ghaziabad	12:35	Banaras	05:35	Weekly	Wednesday
02397	Gaya Jn	14:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:10	6 Days a week	Except Saturday
02398	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:20	Gaya Jn	00:30	6 Days a week	Except Sunday
05283	Muzaffarpur Jn	06:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
05284	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:00	Muzaffarpur Jn	04:50	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
02393	Patna Jn	20:10	New Delhi	12:10	6 Days a week	Except Thursday
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Patna Jn	07:00	6 Days a week	Except Friday
04123	Prayagraj Jn	14:30	Hazrat Nizamuddin	11:10	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday
04124	Hazrat Nizamuddin	15:50	Prayagraj Jn	09:00	Bi-weekly	Monday, Thursday
05193	Chhapra	14:00	Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan	22:10	Weekly	Saturday
05194	Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan	00:05	Chhapra	08:00	Weekly	Monday
02417	Prayagraj Jn	21:30	Delhi Jn	08:55	Weekly	Friday
02418	Delhi Jn	09:30	Prayagraj Jn	19:45	Weekly	Saturday
04145	Prayagraj Jn	21:30	Delhi Jn	08:55	Weekly	Thursday
04146	Delhi Jn	09:30	Prayagraj Jn	19:45	Weekly	Friday
02421	Subedarganj	21:35	Delhi Jn	08:55	Weekly	Sunday
02422	Delhi Jn	09:30	Subedarganj	19:40	Weekly	Monday
03309	Dhanbad Jn	10:10	Jammu Tawi	22:40	Weekly	Tuesday
03310	Jammu Tawi	23:25	Dhanbad Jn	14:00	Weekly	Wednesday
09195	Vadodara Jn (via Varanasi Jn)	19:00	Mau Jn	20:45	Weekly	Saturday
09196	Mau Jn (via Varanasi Jn)	23:15	Vadodara Jn	00:45	Weekly	Sunday
09417	Ahmedabad Jn (via Varanasi Jn)	09:10	Danapur	20:30	Weekly	Monday
09418	Danapur (via Varanasi Jn)	23:50	Ahmedabad Jn	11:10	Weekly	Tuesday
09405	Sabarmati (via Lucknow)	18:10	Patna Jn	02:00	Weekly	Tuesday
09406	Patna Jn (via Lucknow)	05:00	Sabarmati	13:30	Weekly	Thursday
09525	Hapa (via Varanasi Jn)	00:40	Naharlagun	16:00	Weekly	Wednesday
09526	Naharlagun (via Varanasi Jn)	10:00	Hapa	00:30	Weekly	Saturday
09183	Mumbai Central (via Lucknow)	22:50	Banaras	10:30	Weekly	Wednesday
09184	Banaras (via Lucknow)	14:30	Mumbai Central	04:20	Weekly	Friday
09189	Mumbai Central (via Lucknow)	10:30	Katihar Jn	07:30	Weekly	Saturday



## DSWD Kathua organizes Awareness Rally On International Day of Girl Child 2024



Kathua, null, null



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 11

Under the leadership of District Social Welfare Officer Varun Kumar Chaudhary, JKAS, the District Social Welfare Department of Kathua orchestrated a transformative awareness rally in celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child. This impactful event, held in collaboration with Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kathua, and the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), was part of the Sankalp: HEW Mission Shakti Kathua initiative. The rally was a tapestry of creativity and passion, featuring students who expressed their visions for a brighter future through stirring poems and impactful speeches. Their per-

formances not only highlighted the importance of girls' rights and education but also embodied the spirit of resilience and hope. Each voice echoed the collective dream of an equitable society where every girl is empowered to chase her aspirations. Adding a unique touch, the event incorporated a "Wall of Dreams," where participants wrote their hopes and aspirations for gender equality and displayed them prominently. This interactive element allowed attendees to engage deeply with the cause, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility towards advocating for girls' empowerment.

Workshops on self-defense, leadership skills, and personal development were also organized,

equipping participants with practical tools to navigate challenges and become advocates for change. To celebrate their involvement, participants received vibrant T-shirts emblazoned with empowering messages, along with refreshments that encouraged camaraderie and connection.

The rally served not only as a platform for awareness but as a movement towards action, inspiring everyone to contribute to a culture that values and uplifts girls. The enthusiasm and commitment displayed throughout the event highlighted the community's dedication to creating a supportive environment where girls can thrive, paving the way for a brighter, more equitable future in Kathua and beyond.

## JU's CDOE lacks DEB-UGC approval to run courses'

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 11

The former president of Jammu University Research Scholars Executive Association (JURSEA), Dr Vikas Sharma today reiterated his demand for high level probe into the messy affairs in Director Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), University of Jammu (JU) which has placed the career of thousands of students at risk owing to careless approach of incumbent officers.

Dr. Sharma highlighted that the courses being run in JU's CDOE sans approval of Distance Education Bureau (DEB) of University Grants Commission (UGC) due to which the career of students is at stake. Dr. Sharma alleged that the CDOE had failed to obtain necessary approval from the UGC to run Post Graduate and Undergraduate under distance mode which has put on risk the career of thousands of students who are pursuing their courses from JU's CDOE.

"The incumbent Director of CDOE, Prof Pankaj Srivastava has miserably failed to fulfill his statutory obligations which led to mess in the CDOE. He along with his team of officers have failed to obtain mandatory approval from DEB to run distance mode academic programs owing to which the careers of thousands of students pursuing their studies from the institution are at risk," he said. He claimed that a committee was formed around one and half year



ago to sort out the issues related to DEB approval but the incumbent Director got that committee abolished and didn't pursue the matter despite several communications from DEB. "As a result, the CDOE has not been able to make fresh admissions for the current academic session. But, neither the Vice Chancellor nor the Director CDOE are serious to tide over this crisis," he added. Dr Sharma alleged that the DEB had also sought plagiarism report related to study material of various courses run by CDOE and the incumbent Director failed to furnish the same. "The University has spent lakhs of rupees in printing the study material in advance without even furnishing the plagiarism report which means all that printed material stocked in CDOE will be trashed and expenditure of lakhs of rupees will go waste," he explained.

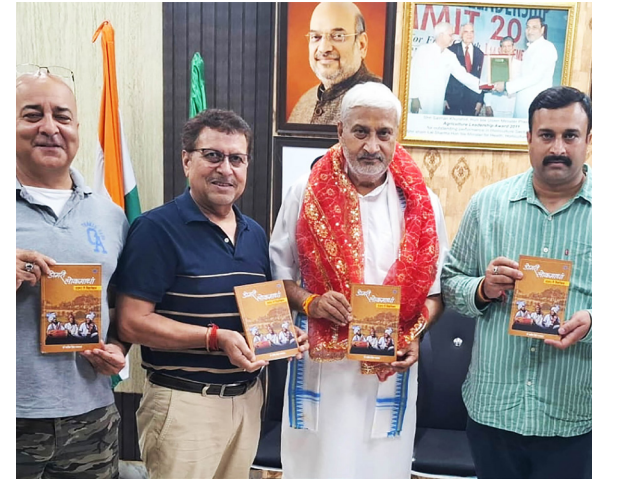
He also highlighted that JU miserably failed to get approval to run Online Mode courses which was evident from the fact that it got approval only for two courses where University of Kashmir got eight courses in the list. "CDOE Director Prof Pankaj Sriv-

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

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

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

## The book "Dogri Lok Gatha: Sarup te Vishleshan" will help in understanding Dogra history: Sham Sharma



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 11

Nasib Singh Manhas, a retired officer from the 1988 batch of the Indian Broadcasting Program Service (IBPS), paid a courtesy visit to former Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Government and current MLA from Jammu North Assembly, Sham Lal Sharma, and presented him with his book titled "Dogri Lok Gatha: Sarup te Vishleshan."

On this occasion, Sham Lal Sharma said that the book "Dogri Lok Gatha: Sarup te Vishleshan" will help in understanding Dogra history. The creation of literature in local languages usually begins as part of an oral tradition. Manhas ji deserves congratulations for the successful publication of this book.

State Awardee Mahant Rohit Shastri, a Jyo-

tishacharya, also spoke on the occasion, stating that Nasib Singh Manhas and his family have made invaluable contributions to the promotion and development of the Dogri language in Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the younger generation to follow in the footsteps of Nasib Singh Manhas and contribute to the preservation of the cultural heritage of the state and the nation.

On this occasion, renowned artist Shekhar Sharma remarked that there are many types of Indian folk epics. Broadly, they can be classified based on their theme and size. In terms of size, these works are found in both short and long forms. The larger epics sometimes have a structure similar to that of narrative poems.

Rakesh Singh and others were also present at the event.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

is shifting power to another one. "We are governed by Centre's rule and we are a Union Territory. The LG office will have to prepare papers now and forward the same to Rashtrapati Bhawan and then Home Ministry in New Delhi," said Omar.

Omar, who is the Chief Minister designate, said that he is of the belief that if things go well, swearing in ceremony would now be held on Wednesday.

Asked about who are the dignitaries invited for the oath ceremony, he said his father Dr Farooq Abdullah is the leader of INDIA alliance, he knows better who have been invited by him. "I will make a list tomorrow and start sending invitations to people. From tomorrow, we will start preparations for the oath ceremony," Omar said.

About any demands from Congress, he said the party presented us with a letter of support. "Whatever we had to discuss, we discussed," he said. To a query that Jammu people would have very less representation in the new government, Omar said: "There would be no injustice with Jammu."

It may be recalled that Omar was yesterday (Monday) chosen NC's Legislature Party leader in a marathon meeting held at Nawa-e-Subh headquarters.

Earlier, in the day, the J & K Congress party held a Legislature Party meeting in Srinagar where they decided to present the letter of support from its six legislators to NC. The recently concluded polls saw the downfall of Congress that fought Assembly polls in a pre-poll alliance with NC. The party could only bag just six seats.

On the contrary, NC swept Kashmir by pocketing 42 seats on its own. NC tally has mounted to 46 as four independents, rather NC rebels, also extended letters of support to the party. Sources said the NC-Congress alliance party meet will take place tomorrow. J&K witnessed three-phased elections from September 18 this year that saw record participation of people. While NC got unexpected results from Kashmir, BJP gained ground in Jammu and settled at 29 seats. The party claims it will sit in opposition to raise issues pertaining to Jammu region. KNO

## Around 150 militants...

of terrorists at the launching pads usually varies between 130 and 150, at times it may be slightly higher."

On the challenges after conducting peaceful assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Yadav said the security forces coordinated closely with the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the administration to ensure fair and peaceful polls.

"There were numerous threat inputs, but with our well-coordinated domination plan, we prevented any attack, and the elections were successful.

"Now, with winter approaching, preparations are in place. Before winter sets in, terrorists often attempt infiltration, and we are dominating the area accordingly," he said, adding there are inputs about possible infiltration attempts along the LoC.

Asked about the volatile West Asia situation having any impact in the Valley, the IG BSF said while the security forces do not have specific inputs on militants trying to take advantage of the crises "we keep these international developments in our analysis and factor them into our operational plans".

On a question about narcoterrorism, Yadav said nar-

cotics comes in from across the LoC and is a good source for terror financing.

"There are some villages along the LoC, some vulnerable patches like Tangdhar and Keran sectors, but we have deployed mobile bunkers and women troopers as well because there were inputs that they might use some women as couriers, to stop the inflow of narcotics. There has been huge impact and we have been successful in bringing it down to a large extent," he added.

The BSF officer said the forces strive to ensure that soldiers are trained not only in traditional aspects of border management such as weapon handling, firing, field craft and tactics and endurance activities, but also in the latest technology.

"With the evolving nature of technology, we have integrated various types of surveillance equipment into border management. Given the growing issue of drones, we are incorporating training on how to effectively use new technology for better border security.

"Additionally, we are utilising the Government of India's platform, iGOT, which offers various types of training that we provide to our trainees," he said. (Agencies)

## With Omar set to take...

when the cabinet approved the presidential order, ex post facto.

Before repositioning of Central rule under section 73 of J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, the President of India revoked the proclamation issued by him under Article 356 of the Constitution of India. Article 356 is not applicable to Union Territories.

After Mehbooba Mufti-led government collapsed following withdrawal of support by Bharatiya Janta Party in June 2018, J&K came under Central Rule.

The first Central Rule as 'Governor's rule' continued for six months under section 92 of the constitution of the then State. After six months, the President's Rule was imposed for the next six months which was subsequently extended with the approval of Parliament. KNO

## NC to send Dr Farooq...

that newly elected legislators will elect four representatives to Rajya Sabha once the notification is issued by the Election Commission of India.

"At present, Ghulam Ali Khatana is the only Rajya Sabha member, who represents J&K in Rajya Sabha. He being a Gujjar face, was nominated by the BJP. The BJP's move was aimed to woo Gujjar votes in the recently concluded Assembly polls," sources said.

Under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the 90-member J&K Assembly can elect five Lok Sabha members and four Rajya Sabha members.

The last Rajya Sabha elections in J&K were held in 2015. NC-Congress alliance had secured one seat while the then Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad became the Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha. All four Rajya Sabha members from J&K retired in February 2021.

The NC Chief was elected to Lok Sabha in 2014 from Srinagar Parliamentary polls. NC's Hasnain Masoodi and Muhammad Akbar Lone won from Anantnag and Baramulla Lok Sabha seats. Sources said that NC in its recent Legislature Party meeting also unanimously agreed that Dr Farooq should represent the party in Rajya Sabha. KNO

## Congress says High...

the menace of BJP and its hate politics that have been prevalent in the country," he asserted.

Earlier, the J&K Congress chief said that a resolution would be sent to the party high command in New Delhi. "We have six members, and the party high command will decide the roles within the coalition government with the National Conference," he said.

Notably, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah, who was elected as the legislature party head by newly elected assembly members of the party, said they were awaiting the letter of support from Congress. Once received, they plan to meet Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to stake their claim for government formation.

The NC and Congress entered a pre-poll alliance for the assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir, with NC winning 42 seats and Congress securing six. Four independent candidates have extended their support to the National Conference. KNO

## India signs host country...

Nations (Privilege & Immunities) Act, 1947, enabling efficient discharge of its functions and programs in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of India.

GBA, a unique multistakeholder alliance, was launched during India's G20 Presidency by the Prime Minister Modi, along with leaders of eight other countries, i.e.. Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Italy, Mauritius, Singapore, UAE, and USA, on September 9, 2023, as an initiative of the G20 Chair.

GBA intends to address challenges related to feedstock availability, developing policy frameworks, streamlining biomass supply chain, and encouraging financing and investment in biofuel production, including promoting clean cooking. GBA will work towards defining common technical standards, quality standardization, and uniform certification to further encourage biofuel's uptake globally.

Since its launch, GBA has made immense progress. In less than a year of its announcement, its membership has expanded to 27 member countries as well as 12 international organizations.

The GBA Secretariat will provide job opportunities for Indian experts in the sector. Indian experts and the private sector will gain a platform for showcasing their considerable expertise and prowess in the biofuels sector (across a variety of feedstocks) globally, empowering "ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT".

## Centre will respond...

minister for coal and mines, said.

He further said the District Development Council (DDC) and Block Development Council (BDC) polls were also held successfully in Jammu and Kashmir.

The National Conference-Congress combine pulled off a spectacular victory in maiden elections in Jammu and Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. In the 90-member Assembly, the National Conference won 42 seats, BJP 29, Congress 6, PDP 3 and the rest of the constituencies were won by others including independents (7).

Reddy expressed confidence that the BJP would win the coming Assembly elections in Jharkhand.

On the ongoing efforts of the Telangana government for rejuvenation of the Musi river and demolition of illegal structures in Hyderabad, he opposed the demolition of houses of the poor.

## Shagun youngest...

Sayed (Congress) are all 71.

The other elected septuagenarians include NC's Hasnain Masoodi (Pampore), BJP's Surjit Sathia (Samba) and his party colleague Baldev Raj (Shri Mata Vaishno Devi).

According to ADR, 23 MLAs are between the ages of 41 and 50 years, while 22 members are in the age group of 61 to 70 years. There are six MLAs who are aged below 40, including Parihar, the first time legislator from Kishtwar seat in Jammu region.

The polls right body also found that there has been no change in the composition of the assembly in terms of gender ratio.

There were three women MLAs in the last assembly which was dissolved in the 2018 elections and the number has remained unchanged this year too.

In 2014, NC's Shamima Firdous and PDP's Asiea Naqash were the only two women to get elected but PDP president Mehbooba Mufti joined them in the House after getting elected in the 2016 bypoll held after the death of her father and then chief minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

Shamima Firdous has retained her Habbakadal seat while Sakina Masood managed to regain the D H Pora seat which she had lost in 2014 elections.

Debutant Parihar from Kishtwar has joined them this year.

In the poll results declared by the Election Commission on Tuesday, the alliance of the NC and Congress, who are constituents of the opposition grouping INDIA bloc, won 48 of the 90 seats at stake. The BJP with 29 seats emerged as the second largest party improving its all-time high tally of 25 in 2014 elections. (AGENCIES)

## GoC visits forward...

General Officer Commanding of the Army's 16 Corps, along with GoC Counter-insurgency force 'Delta', visited Doda to assess the security and operational preparedness for counter-insurgency operations in the area.

Lieutenant Sachdeva appreciated the troops for their unwavering commitment and dedication towards counter-terrorism operations, the White Knight Corps said on X.

On Thursday and Wednesday, the GoC visited forward areas of Rajouri and Akhnoor to review security situation and operational preparedness of troops.

## Lt Governor greets...

righteousness within. This festival inspires the people to lead a pious and virtuous life. On this auspicious occasion, let us imbibe the teachings and ideals of Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram and rededicate ourselves to the cause of a just society.

May this sacred festival of Vijaydashami usher in happiness, prosperity and well-being of all". KNO



## DC Kathua takes appraisal of the works under CAPEX Budget-2024-25

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, OCTOBER 11

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr Rakesh Minhas today reviewed the progress of the development departments under District Capex Budget 2024-25 here at Conference Hall of the DC office complex.

The DC took a detailed review of each sector one by one and received feedback regarding the present status of developmental as well as non construction works.

While taking department wise review, the DC directed the concerned executing agencies to prioritise the completion of pending projects of the district within stipulated timelines.

Taking review of the new works taken up under this year district Capex, the DC stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure early completion of tendering and allotment of works as the restriction of MCC is now lifted.



The DC further enjoined upon all the concerned officers and executing agencies to furnish reports regarding progress achieved on regular basis for monitoring and follow up.

Terming the role of all the departments more important, the DC said that all development projects taken up under CAPEX need concerted efforts from the con-

cerned departments and special attention to pay at ground level by way of timely completion of target works.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Chief Education Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Executive Engineers, CEO Kathua, EOs of MC Kathua, Lakhapur and Nagri and other concerned officers of the district.

## DC Kulgam inspects key Development Projects

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, OCTOBER 11



The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today conducted an extensive inspection of several key development projects in the district.

These projects include Gujjar Bakerwal Hostel, Modern Slaughter house, Transit Accommodation for Migrants at Mirhama and other developmental works.

He also reviewed the progress made on the National Highway (NH)

444. During his visit, the DC was briefed by officers from the executing agencies on the current status of each project.

The DC instructed the concerned executing agencies to expedite work and ensure the timely completion of the NH-444 project and other work projects.

He also emphasized the need to prioritize the construction of the Brazloo Bridge.

Accompanying the DC were Executive Engineer R&B, Tehsildars and other officers.

## DDC Samba reviews developmental activities under District Capex Budget 2024-25

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, OCTOBER 11

The District Development Commissioner (DDC), Samba, convened a high-level review meeting today to assess the developmental activities and works taken under the District Capex Budget for the financial year 2024-25.

The agenda of the meeting focused on reviewing the Physical and Financial Status of ongoing projects up to September 2024, with a special emphasis on works that are currently underway. Additionally, the meeting addressed the status of Administrative Approval and Technical Sanction (AAA/TS), Tendering, and the Allotment of New Works.

Along with review of projects, Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Projects, Bunker Construction, Panchayat Audit were some key topics discussed during the meeting.

The District Development Commissioner



emphasized the importance of completing ongoing projects on time and ensuring that new works under the Capex Budget are executed efficiently, with proper financial oversight and accountability.

The officers were directed to provide the latest physical and financial status reports of all ongoing projects, as well as updates on the allotment of new works, ensuring transparency and account-

ability in all sectors.

The meeting was attended by senior officers, including the ADDC, Assistant Commissioners from various departments, CEO, CMO and other key officers from departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Jal Shakti, Tourism, and Sports. The Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Samba was also present to provide updates on cooperative sector projects.

## Power shutdown

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 11

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Smail Pur, Rhaya, Gurah, Utterbehni, Mandal, Vijaypur town, Kolpur, Bandral and its adjoining areas will remain affected on October 13 from 7 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Chakroi, Pindi, Hansa, Satraiyan, Flora, BOP, Tanda, Kirpind, Seed Farm, Ward No. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 (RS Pura), Paper Mill, Dablehar, Badyal, Chowalla, Khanachak, Hariapur, Kang Deriabn, Bidhipur and its adjoining areas will remain affected on October 13 from 6 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Barui, Nardival, Mandrian, Kha, Maira Thathar, Mundh, Payan and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 13 and 15 from 6 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Hiranagar, Sanyal, Jandi, Suba Chack and its adjoining areas will remain affected on October 13 from 7 am to 12 noon. Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Industrial area, Salmeri, Jogpur and its adjoining areas will remain affected on October 14 from 6 am to 9.30 am. Similarly, the power supply to Raipur, Bain Glar, Basantpur and its adjoining areas will remain affected on October 13 from 7 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Kanganwala and its adjoining areas will remain affected on October 13 and 15 from 7 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Industry-I, Sehora, Kanhal-2 and its adjoining areas will remain affected on October 13 from 7 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to PHE, Billawar and its adjoining areas will remain affected on October 13, 14 and 15 from 8 am to 4 pm.

## DC Udhampur chairs NCORD meeting to combat drug menace

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 11



Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, convened a District Level Committee meeting of NCORD here at Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Udhampur.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Additional SP Sandeep Bhat, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anil Manhas and other district officers from various line departments.

During the meeting, the DC directed the concerned departments to intensify their outreach efforts to aid in the recovery of drug-affected individuals. She emphasized the need to upscale counseling, awareness across the district. The DC called for a strict enforcement drive to seize drugs and prevent youth, especially students, from falling prey to drug abuse. She further directed the concerned to ensure a 100% computerized billing system in pharmacies.

## ADDC Rajouri chairs meeting of JWC to strengthen Cooperative

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 11



## Movement in the district

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 11

In a significant move to bolster the cooperative movement in Rajouri district, Additional District Development Commissioner Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, chaired a crucial meeting with concerned members of the Joint Working Committee (JWC).

The meeting aimed to discuss and finalize modalities for strengthening the cooperative sector, focusing on eight key areas.

A number of points discussed including the identification of uncovered Areas, liquidation and revival, farmer mobilization, registration and governance, Business Development Plans, Banking and Linkages, Monitoring

and Review and Setting up District Federations.

The chair also directed to expedite the process of liquidation of defunct PACS, and also directed to revive the defunct dairy and fishery cooperatives in a time bound manner. The directions were passed to explore the possibilities of forming new fisheries cooperatives in Block Budhal and Darhal.

In order to spread awareness regarding the cooperative sector in district Rajouri, the chair directed all the members to jointly organise massive awareness camps, workshops and install awareness booths on the weekly block diwas program.

The meeting was attended by the DPO, Mohammad Nawaz Choudhary; Dy Registrar CS, Adnan Rathar; CAHO, Dr Khalid Hussain; DDM NABARD, AD Fisheries,

## Entrepreneur Awareness Seminar held at Government Polytechnic Ramban

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, OCTOBER 11



A seminar on Entrepreneur Awareness was organized today at Government Polytechnic Ramban in collaboration with Entrepreneur Development Institute (EDI) Ramban.

The event aimed to inspire and educate students about the benefits of self-employment and government initiatives for entrepreneurship.

Government Polytechnic Ramban and EDI Ramban reaffirm their commitment to nurturing entrepreneurial spirit among youth, driving economic growth, and empowering future generations.

District Nodal Officer, EDI Ramban, Tasneef Rasool Parry and Administrative Officer, EDI Ramban Izzaar Ahmad Reshi, graced the occasion.

Tasneef Rasool Parry delivered a comprehensive presentation, highlighting the need for self-employment and various government initiatives. He urged students to leverage these initiatives to create sustainable enterprises, fostering economic growth and employment opportunities.

HOD E&C, Government Polytechnic Ramban, Er. Pawan Kumar expressed gratitude to the EDI Ramban officers for sharing valuable insights with the students.

## DC Kishtwar approves 28 Rent Assessment Cases

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 11

The District Rent Assessment Committee, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Rajesh Kumar Shavan today approved 28 rent cases.

The rent cases pertaining to Police, Army, Revenue, PMGSY, Education, Youth services and Sports, Health, cooperative, FCS & CA, ISM besides revenue department were approved by the Committee.

The Committee discussed the fixation of rent of various structures in which various government offices are functioning across the district.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner asked the officers to pay rent to the concerned owners of land and structures on time and ensure safety of the Government/rented property.

He further asked the District Officers to pay the approved rent after proper verification of the records.

Besides, the Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar instructed the concerned officers to ensure the participation of Building owners in the next meeting.

## Protecting Young Vision: GMC Srinagar hosts CME on Childhood Blindness

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 11

In recognition of 'World Sight Day 2024,' the Ophthalmology Department, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, hosted a Continuing Medical Education (CME) program in line with this year's theme "Children, Love Your Eyes."

The CME aimed to understand the causes and burden of Childhood Blindness and emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach and timely interventions.

The event was held under the patronage of Dr. Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal and Dean, GMC Srinagar.

Prof. Junaid S. Wani, Head of the Ophthalmology Department, and faculty members graced the occasion. Senior Residents and Postgraduate students of the department attended the CME.



Dr. Rakshan Reyaz, Senior Resident, Ophthalmology, delivered a comprehensive talk on Childhood Blindness, covering epidemiology, etiology, and burden. Dr. Shifa Shafat, Resident, Ophthalmology, highlighted the importance of Refractive

Errors in Children and its management.

Dr. Shah Nawaz Shafi, Associate Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, concluded the seminar with a take-home message emphasizing early diagnosis and regular eye check-ups in preventing avoidable childhood blindness.

The Department of Ophthalmology, GMC Srinagar, encourages everyone to prioritize eye health through regular check-ups and timely interventions. Addressing childhood blindness requires a comprehensive approach, including preventive healthcare, early treatment, and access to education and rehabilitation services.

With timely interventions, many cases of childhood blindness can be prevented and managed, improving the quality of life for millions of children worldwide.

## DLSA Bandipora organizes Awareness programme on 'World Mental Health Day'

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 11

In accordance with the directions of J&K Legal Services Authority, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora in coordination with Tehsil Legal Services Committee Sumbal and in collaboration with Education Department Bandipora organized an awareness programme on 'World Mental Health Day' at Government High School Trigam Sumbal.

The programme was organized under the guidance of Chairman (Principal District and Sessions Judge Bandipora) and supervision of Secretary District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora,



## EDITORIAL

## BJP's growing graph in Rajouri, Poonch

The just-concluded assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir have produced a complex narrative for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Despite significant gains in overall vote share and a notable increase in votes from traditionally Muslim-dominated areas, the BJP faces a sobering reality: it lost all six seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes (STs) and suffered a shocking defeat in the Hindu-dominated Nowshera constituency, where party chief Ravinder Raina was ousted by a substantial margin. These results present a paradox. On one hand, the BJP has successfully expanded its footprint in the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, where it garnered over 200,000 votes, up from 113,890 in 2014 and a mere 29,359 in 2008. Such figures are undeniably impressive and signal a growing acceptance of the party's message among a diverse electorate. Yet, the inability to convert this increased support into legislative seats, particularly in areas where the Pahari community resides, raises important questions about electoral strategy and representation. Party leaders are already signaling a need for introspection. The BJP's focus on granting ST status to the Pahari-speaking population and providing political reservations did not yield the desired electoral success in these key regions. With only one seat won out of eight in Poonch and Rajouri, the party must evaluate why its initiatives did not resonate with voters as anticipated. The outcomes reflect not just a failure to capture these seats, but a potential disconnect between the party's policies and the actual needs and sentiments of the electorate. The defeat of Ravinder Raina is particularly emblematic of this struggle. Having previously secured victory in Nowshera, his loss underscores the volatility of voter loyalty and the imperative for political leaders to remain attuned to their constituents' evolving priorities. The BJP's electoral strategy, while ambitious, may have overlooked local dynamics and community sentiments that ultimately influenced voter decisions. The mixed results highlight a critical lesson: while increasing vote share is an achievement, it does not guarantee representation or governance. The BJP's stronghold on the Scheduled Castes (SC) seats in Jammu contrasts sharply with its failures in the ST-reserved constituencies, suggesting that its strategies need to be more nuanced and reflective of the demographic realities on the ground. Moreover, the impressive gains in vote tallies—such as the leap from 222 votes in Surankote in 2008 to 23,773 in 2024—speak to the effectiveness of the party's outreach and campaign strategies. However, translating this enthusiasm into electoral victories requires a deeper understanding of the socio-political fabric of the region. The stark differences in voter behavior across different communities necessitate tailored approaches that resonate with diverse groups, particularly in areas with significant Pahari populations where the BJP's initiatives fell flat. As the BJP reflects on its performance, the path forward must involve a commitment to dialogue and engagement with all communities, especially those that have historically been marginalized. The party's leadership would do well to reconsider its approach to representation and ensure that its policies align with the aspirations of a broader constituency. Ultimately, the results of the recent assembly elections serve as both a beacon of hope and a wake-up call for the BJP. The challenge now lies in harnessing the enthusiasm of its growing base while simultaneously addressing the grievances and expectations of those who remain unrepresented. The road ahead is fraught with challenges, but it also offers an opportunity for the BJP to redefine its strategies and strengthen its commitment to inclusive governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Celebrating unity and reconciliation through art

RAJDEEP PATHAK

In a world often marked by discord and division, art emerges as a powerful medium that transcends barriers and speaks to our shared humanity. It serves as a universal language that unites people in their collective longing for peace, healing, and reconciliation. Against this backdrop, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, in collaboration with the Embassy of Colombia in India, recently hosted a poignant exhibition titled "Weaving Life to Weave Peace," an initiative of 'Tejidos Chakana'. This significant event, held shortly after the celebrations of October 2nd - Gandhi Jayanti, and the International Day of Non-violence - underscores the deep connection between art and the pursuit of harmony in our world. The exhibition vividly highlights the transformative power of creativity as it honours the countless lives lost to conflict in Colombia - and the world per se - a nation that has weathered its share of internal strife and lost countless innocent citizens.

The Colombian artisans, Mateo Perea Bernal and Nancy Gomez presented an extraordinary array of stunning creations crafted with fine stone beads. Each meticulously designed portrait serves as a heartfelt homage to politicians, journalists, humourists, social thinkers, and others whose lives were tragically cut short by violence. Another defining moment of the exhibition was the unveiling of

a remarkable portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, crafted out of an astounding, over 1.4 million stone beads by Ambassador HE Victor Echeverri of Colombia in India, with flags of both the Nations imprinted through the beads.

This unique piece stands as a testament to the ideals of peace and reconciliation that Mahatma Gandhi tirelessly championed throughout his life. In a touching gesture, it was generously donated to the Gandhi Smriti, serving as a fitting tribute to the legacy of a leader who devoted himself to the principles of nonviolence, till the last breath of his life. 'Tejidos Chakana' is a transformative Colombian initiative rooted in ancestral traditions, using the art of weaving to promote peace and reconciliation. Founded by artisans, it honours indigenous techniques and local materials, preserving traditional craftsmanship while providing a platform for artisans to express their stories of struggle and resilience.

Each handcrafted piece reflects the creativity and strength of a nation recovering from conflict, weaving narratives of hope and unity for a brighter future. At the heart of 'Tejidos Chakana' is the belief that art can bridge divides and foster understanding. The initiative engages diverse communities through workshops and collaborative projects, empowering individuals to reclaim their voices and share their experiences. This cultural exchange promotes dialogue, enabling people to



confront their past and imagine peaceful coexistence. Moreover, through vibrant exhibitions, 'Tejidos Chakana' celebrates the artistry and resilience of Colombian artisans, underscoring their vital role in the larger narrative of peace-building. The initiative is a testament to the power of creativity in healing communities and fostering social impact.

By promoting dialogue and cultural exchange, the aim is to foster an environment where healing can occur, allowing people to confront their past while envisioning a peaceful coexistence. The story of 'Tejidos Chakana' resonates deeply with Mahatma Gandhi's beliefs, particularly his emphasis on the use of hands, creativity, and self-reliance as essential elements of individual and societal transformation. Gandhi often spoke of the profound connection between manual labour and the soul, advocating for the dignity and significance of work that involves the hands.

He would say, "If I were a poet, I would write

poetry on the possibilities of my five fingers". In his vision of education, known as 'Nai Talim' or "Basic Education," Mahatma Gandhi stressed the importance of learning through productive activity, where creativity and craftsmanship were not merely tools for economic independence but essential means for cultivating inner peace, self-reliance, and a deeper connection with one's community. Much like 'Tejidos Chakana,' Mahatma Gandhi viewed the act of creating with one's hands as a form of empowerment, healing, and self-expression. For him, the spinning wheel, or 'charkha,' became a symbol of India's struggle for independence - more than just a tool for producing cloth, it represented self-sufficiency, unity, and the rejection of exploitative systems. By encouraging Indians to spin their yarn and weave their cloth, Gandhi promoted the idea that true freedom came from within, not only political or economic autonomy but also spiritual and cul-

tural self-reliance.

In both the Gandhian framework and the 'Tejidos Chakana' initiative, the act of weaving transcends its material purpose to become a metaphor for life itself. Just as threads are intricately woven to form a piece of fabric, so too are communities brought together by shared experiences, challenges, and hopes. Mahatma Gandhi believed that individual self-reliance was a precursor to true collective harmony - only when people could stand on their own feet would they be able to contribute meaningfully to the welfare of society.

Similarly, the artisans of 'Tejidos Chakana' are not just creating objects of beauty; they are weaving the very fabric of a peaceful and united future for their nation. Echoing Gandhi's ideas of community empowerment and education, as not merely a process of acquiring academic knowledge, but as a holistic development of the individual within a community setting, where the aim is to foster dialogue and cultural exchange, 'Tejidos Chakana' nurtures an environment of collective learning, where people confront their past traumas and work together towards reconciliation and in the process healing. This reflects Gandhi's belief in the power of community and the idea that true education is incomplete without the cultivation of moral and social values. Moreover, 'Weaving Life to Weave Peace' also aligns with Gandhi's vision of nonviolence, or

'ahimsa,' as an active force for peace-building. Mahatma Gandhi believed that nonviolence was not just the absence of physical conflict but the presence of love, compassion, and understanding. In conclusion, it can be said without exaggeration that such powerful initiatives invite the world to witness the power of art as a catalyst for change, encouraging humankind to appreciate the beauty that arises from the collective journeys toward reconciliation and understanding. Moreover, through the lens of art, 'Weaving Life to Weave Peace' commemorates the past and inspires hope for a future without conflicts, thereby promoting collective responsibility in weaving a tapestry of peace for generations to come.

As we engage with these artistic expressions, we are reminded that every bead, every creation, and every story contribute to a larger narrative of healing and unity in our world. In celebrating these artistic expressions, we honour the timeless message that true peace begins with the work we do ourselves - both in our hearts and with our hands.

This is evident as Ambassador Victor points out that if one bead breaks, the entire frame collapses, signifying the unifying strength of community and peace-building. They are what can be called, "Peace Beads".

(The writer is Gandhi Smriti Executive, Mahatma Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

## MSMEs and food processing: A path to economic growth

RAJESH KUMAR SINGH

Both Bihar and Andhra Pradesh have been advocating for special government packages, emphasising the importance of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) as a key driver for development. The governments of these states, as well as the central government, recognise the significant potential in the MSME sector, particularly in food processing, and have prioritised it accordingly. Chief Ministers N Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar share concerns over the stagnation of the MSME sector in recent years, and both are committed to reviving it through various initiatives.

In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Naidu has acknowledged the struggles faced by MSMEs over the past five years, emphasising the need to revitalise the sector. He highlighted the slow progress of MSME parks and raised concerns over pending government incentives, which have hampered the sector's growth. His administration aims to address these challenges by ensuring the release of overdue incentives and enhancing the participation of farmers in MSME parks. By linking farmers directly to these parks, Naidu envisions a system where agricultural stakeholders can benefit directly from business opportunities.

Similarly, Bihar's Chief

Minister Nitish Kumar has voiced concerns about MSMEs and infrastructure development in his state. Kumar has aligned with Naidu in recognising the critical role of MSMEs in driving economic growth and ensuring regional prosperity. The coincidence of Bihar's representation in the central government, with ministers like Jitan Ram Manjhi and Chirag Paswan, has further fueled efforts to secure the necessary support for these initiatives. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has encouraged these ministers to focus on fostering connections between DWCRAs groups and MSMEs to enhance economic opportunities for small enterprises.

A significant allocation of Rs 100 crore as a credit guarantee for MSMEs has been announced, underscoring the importance of ensuring financial support for these small businesses. However, meaningful progress in the MSME sector is unlikely unless strong linkages are created between MSMEs and the food processing industry, as these sectors are highly interdependent.

The food processing industry, in particular, has been recognised as a powerful engine for economic growth. India is one of the largest producers of various food items, including milk, fruits, vegetables, millet, tea and fish. This creates a robust foundation for the growth of the

food processing sector. India's position as one of the largest and fastest-growing economies in the world is bolstered by the significant role played by the food processing industry in ensuring food security and driving economic expansion.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries reported that by the end of FY 2022-23, the sector contributed 7.66 per cent of the gross value added (GVA) in manufacturing and 8.45 per cent of the GVA in agriculture. Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the sector has been strong, with Rs 5,290.27 crore in 2021-22 and Rs 2,934.12 crore in 2020-21. However, challenges remain, as processed food exports saw a

17 per cent decline in FY24, dropping from \$13,078.3 million in the previous fiscal to \$10,881.81 million.

To address these challenges and promote growth, the government has implemented several initiatives, including the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY), Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industries (PLIS-FPI), and Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME). By increasing processing levels and creating employment, these programs also aim to raise farmers' incomes.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)

## Why technology can't ease people's suffering

VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

The rains were here. They were here for a long time—if one goes by the weeks and months, the news channels were reporting their havoc from one end of the country to the other. From streets in Surat to fields in Biraol of Darbhanga, water was found everywhere. From the hills of Himachal to the banks of Kavery, water was found in all the wrong places. Physical devastation and human tragedy were writ large. Rains are not new, and equally clearly, technology is progressing by leaps and bounds.

One wonders when 'the train shall meet'. One would have thought that repeated experiences, such as what Kosi has caused in north Bihar, would have changed the contours of its effects. It would not be the same in terms of embank-

ments breaking in the same style, and it would not be the same manner of misery caused by the devastation of fragile huts and repeated breaking of embankments over and over again. Surely the country that boasts the landing on the moon and explorations of the planet can better respond to the devastations of nature.

There is a missing link somewhere which is so close to all that it's not even visible to the affected people. In some other countries, people are talking and doing as it were. They are changing the course of rivers and planning habitation in a manner that makes life less vulnerable and the potential for tragedy more manageable. To get back to the example of Bihar, whether it be the neighbourhood of the Budhi Gandak River or Kosi, habitations have been built to keep them

away from the reach of floods.

However, the devastations have their ways of surprising. Consider the recent claim of the UGC Chairman in the printed world about the citations of Indian research in international forums. Consider the pronouncement of the political elite on the scientific breakthroughs of leading centres of science and technology in the world of research.

All of them are legitimate claims duly annotated and evidence tested. The question remains how much of this technology has altered the quality of life of the people? It is not all a dreary story. Technology has changed the lives of several crores of people, especially in matters which have to do with the supply of clean water. This is as true as the story of the fury of floods.

However, somewhere

the coexistence of such opposite experiences remains an enigma and difficult to explain. Science and technology cannot be bereft of responsibilities to society at large. Equally clear is the fact that death and destruction experiences would serve as the bottom line of the outcomes of devastation.

Somehow a bottom connection between technological progress and its tangible effects needs to be established. Somewhere the definition of progress and growth has to cover elimination of the same stories of destruction and death in the same regions over and over again. So long as the devastation of Kosi remains an annual affair with the same results most of the time, there is something in the developmental agenda that needs to be addressed.

It is not an easy question to answer, especially

after decades of application of the prescriptions whether it be a Planning Commission or the Niti Ayog. These questions need to be flagged and repeated till answers are found. In a country filled with bright people like India, there must be actionable solutions to mitigate human misery. Perhaps the part answer would lie in empowering local people with skills, resources, and more to handle local problems. Higher levels of administration, like the district at the state level, have to deal with issues of connectivity, coordination, mobilisation of resources, and using the skills of the people with commitment in that part of the country to work for the welfare of the local context and the local circumstances. Far too much have rewards been focused on recognition gained abroad and

talking of the big and the grand.

While there may be nothing wrong with that recognition and solutions to local problems should be picked up by the decision making system, the influential clientele, and the political elite. A culture has to be built to identify the local problems and use means of technology and resources to handle them at a local level. Interventions of this variety should recognise the same approval and celebration as an invitation from abroad or for that matter making of the great in a foreign institution. Somewhere a paradigm change would help the mitigation of local problems. It can be done and needs to be done.

(The writer is an internationally acclaimed management consultant; The views expressed are personal)



## Army Public School Domana organizes session by Gallantry Award Winner

J I NEWS SERVICE  
DAMANA, OCT II

"A Soldier is he whose blood glorifies the nation." Army Public School Damana organized a highly interactive and motivational face to face interaction session of the students with Gallantry Award Winner on 11 October 2024 in the AV room. The session was graced with the presence of Major Shubhang, KC from 7 DOGRA whose powerful discourse left a lasting impression on the audience. The session was organized to share the narratives of indomitable courage and leadership of our soldiers while leading his men to reclaim crucial positions from well-entrenched enemies which have become legendary, symbolizing the finest traditions of the Indian Army.



Project Veer Gatha was instituted under Gallantry Awards Portal (GAP) in 2021 with an aim to disseminate the details of acts of bravery of the Gallantry Awardees and the life stories of these brave hearts among the students so as to raise the spirit of patriotism and instill amongst them values of civic consciousness.

In his lecture, Major

Shubhang, KC shared his personal experience of being a part of counter-insurgency and how bravely his team faced the opponents and eliminated them. He provided a compelling insight into the lives of soldiers, recounting the courage displayed in various military operations where gallantry awards were earned. Through vivid examples,

he underscored the invaluable contributions of our armed forces in securing the nation's future. The session also had a valuable interactive segment where he offered career guidance to students aspiring to join the National Defence Academy (NDA) or the Indian Military Academy (IMA). His practical advice and encouragement inspired many to pursue a career in the armed forces with renewed determination. Following the interaction, the school also organized various activities like Poems, Paragraph Writing, Paintings etc to highlight the lives of these brave individuals.

Overall, the session was a highly enriching and enlightening experience, leaving students with a deeper sense of patriotism and respect for the soldiers who protect our freedom.

## Drug Abuse Awareness Program held at New Brook Dale School



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT II

To combat the rising issue of drug addiction among the youth, National Incredible Literacy Mission Jammu in collaboration with Directorate of School Education Jammu organized a comprehensive awareness program today at New Brook Dale Institute of Education, School at Ghaink, in Bhalwal zone. The event was aimed to educate and sensitize students about the

perils of drug abuse and the importance of making informed choices. In this event awareness about the ill effects of drugs given through interesting lectures by NILM team. During the event school children also highlighted their view over evils of drug abuse. NILM guest lecturer included R.S. Thakur Project Director NILM, Sheetal Devi Coordinator NILM and Pooja Sahu Filed Officer NILM.

During the event Principal of New Brook Dale Girja Bakshi gave a impressive lecture on the Drug abuse. She also appreciated the role of NILM NGO for synthesizing awareness among students. School staff who actively participated in the event included Anjali, Romesh, Anupam, Nishu, Remi, Neeru, Anisha, Sonam, Ekta, Manisha, Pooja, Sakshi, Delhair, Shalu, Radha Rani and Renu.

## Indian Army interacts with Gujar, Bakarwals at Satharban, Poonch

J I NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, OCT II

Indian Army conducted an interaction with Gujar & Bakarwals community on 11 Oct 2024. The said interaction was organised with Sarpanch, Panch, Nambardar, Chowkidar and other locals of the village Satharban. The interaction was aimed at engaging various local leaders and villagers with Indian Army towards the spirit of Oneness. Various measures to build confidence and strengthen coordination between AWAM and Army were also discussed. In addition, the locals were made aware of the prevailing security situation in the area. Indian Army also enquired about their general well-being and took note of their grievances for further actions.

## IRS officer Suchiter Sharma releases his book on UPSC/JKAS preparation "Wisdom in Preparation: The Art of Smartcuts for CSE Success"

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT II

I am thrilled to announce the release of my new book, Insider's Guide: Smartcuts for CSE Mains, designed to help aspirants navigate the UPSC Mains with a fresh, practical approach. This book is a product of my own journey through the Civil Services Examination, where I learned that succeeding in the Mains is not just about hard work but about working smart and



efficiently.

In Insider's Guide, I share the specific strat-

egies I used to prepare effectively, breaking down the process into clear, actionable steps that make even the most complex parts of Mains preparation more manageable. The aim of this book is to offer you a real, unfiltered view of what it takes to succeed—not with general tips but with techniques that address genuine doubts and common obstacles that most aspirants encounter along the way.

I introduce a concept I

call "smartcuts," or ways to approach your preparation in a way that balances optimization and maximization. This approach helps you to make the best use of your time and focus on areas that matter most, ensuring that every study session moves you closer to your goal. I discuss critical aspects like when to begin certain stages of preparation, how to tackle answer writing, and effective time management, so you can approach each phase with confidence.

## APS Domana organizes Awareness Session at Borderless World Foundation

J I NEWS SERVICE  
DAMANA, OCT II

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Borderless World Foundation (BWF) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that works for the girl children who have taken shelter in the camp because of terrorism or other constraints. Under the mentorship of Brig Vivek Puri, SM, Chairman Army Public School Damana, the school initiated a noble endeavor by organizing a Motivational Session for the girl children at Borderless World Foundation Jammu on 11 October 2024. A group of 25 students from classes VI-IX from APS Damana along with school counsellor visited the orphan-



age.

The informative session was taken by Mrs Madhur Uppal, Counsellor APS Damana on 'How to handle changes of puberty and adolescence' which aimed at providing knowledge to the teenage girls about their physical, emotional and social development and to equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate this critical phase of

life, ultimately contributing to their overall well-being and empowerment.

With an aim to nurture compassion, the school counsellor sensitized the children about various changes in the body of a woman during puberty and how to handle it. She insisted that experiencing certain physical and mental changes are absolutely normal and are not a subject to be

stressed upon. Investing in children contributes to stronger communities and helping the vulnerable members of the society is a collective responsibility of the people in general. After the session, the school donated some healthy eatables to the children and wished them all health and happiness.

Mrs Pushpinder Kaur, Principal APS Damana opined that the world needs more kindness and humanity. We should help each other and uplift those who need our help. Giving is not aiding financial assistance to anyone but providing your love, care and time to someone. The children at the orphanage enjoyed the session and were assured to believe in themselves and their abilities.

**Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government**  
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Email: [wluwjammu@gmail.com](mailto:wluwjammu@gmail.com)  
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**EoI-2/WLWJ of 2024-25**  
**Dated: 10-10-2024**

**Expression of interest (EOI) for Consultancy service**  
**(Through e-procurement mode)**

**(TWO COVER SYSTEM)**

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Wildlife Warden Jammu** invite Expression of Interest (EOI) from the **Architects including structural consultants** for the below mention work.

S.No.	Particular	Adv. Cost of Consultancy	Tender fee	Earnest Money	Time of Completion
1	Expression of Interest for Listing, detailing, examination, documentation and printing of biodiversity of the Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary.	<b>Rs. 5.00 lacs.</b>	<b>Rs. 600/-</b>	<b>Rs. 15,000/-</b>	<b>04 seasons</b>

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.in](http://www.jktenders.in) as per the schedule given below

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	10-10-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	10-10-2024
4	Bid submission Start Date	10-10-2024
5	Bid Submission End Date	30-10-2024 upto 1400 Hrs
6	Date & time of Technical of opening (Online)	31-10-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden Jammu region, Jammu, Manda Hills, near Hotel Ashok Jammu-180005
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online).	To be notified after technical bid evaluation
AA No. & Date		RWLWJ/2024-25/2325-26 dated 03-10-2024

Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, Conditions and other details.

**No : WLWJ/**  
**Dated : 10-10-2024**

**Sd/-**  
**(Vijay Kumar) SFS**  
**Wildlife warden**  
**Jammu**

**DIP/J-5412/24**  
**Date: 11-9-24**

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION REASI**  
**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**e-NIT No. 26 of 2024-25 Dated 10-10-2024**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (₹ in lacs)	Cost of doc. (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in Rs.₹)	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor
1	Restoration of Boundary wall of Govt. Nursing College Reasi Scope of work Restoration of Damaged/R/wall Const. of protection wall and Rising of compound wall at Nursing College Reasi	58.30	1500/-	116600/-	6 Month	"A"
2	Up-gradation of existing building infrastructure of Migrant Middle School Talwara Zone Chinkah for the year 2024-25	12.70	600/-	25400/-	6 Month	"B/C/D"

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

1	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	11-10-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 11-10-2024 to 25-08-2024, 1600 Hrs
4	Bid submission Start Date	11-10-2024
5	Bid Submission End Date	25-10-2024 up to 1600 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	28-08-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Reasi.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

**Position of AAA: -**

**Accorded**

**Position of T. S: -**

**Accorded**

**Position of Funds: -**

**Demanded**

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Reasi uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/ Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Reasi**, as mentioned in the bid documents. No:- 3615-19

Dated:- 10-10-2024

**Sd/-**  
**(Er. Bhopinder Kumar Banotra)**  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Reasi

**DIP/J-5389/24**  
**Date: 11-9-24**



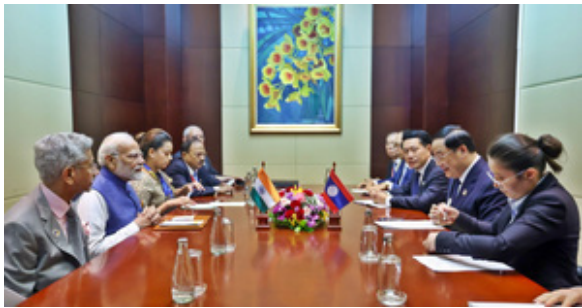
# PM MODI HOLDS BILATERAL TALKS WITH LAO PDR COUNTERPART

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 11

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with his Laos counterpart Sonexay Siphandone in Vientiane on Friday.

The two nations inked agreements in the field of defence, broadcasting and Customs cooperation in the presence of the state heads.

The two leaders discussed several avenues of enhancing bilateral cooperation in fields like capacity building, disaster management, renewable energy, heritage restoration, economic ties,



defence collaboration, and people-to-people ties. They also discussed strengthening India-Laos civilisational and contemporary ties.

They also noted that the ongoing restoration and conservation of Vat Phou, a UNESCO World Heritage

Site, under Indian assistance from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) imparts a special dimension to bilateral ties.

PM Modi congratulated Lao PDR counterpart on successfully hosting the 21st ASEAN-India and 19th East Asia Summits.

The Laos PM expressed gratefulness for India's flood relief assistance, in the aftermath of Typhoon Yagi.

Besides MoUs, three Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation were also exchanged in the presence of two leaders. The QIPs relate to the preservation of the heritage of Lao Ramayan, the restoration of Wat Pakea Buddhist temple with murals related to Ramayan, and support to shadow puppetry theatre on Ramayan in Champasak province.

All three QIPs have a provision for grant assis-

stance of about USD 50000 each. Besides, India will also provide grant assistance of about USD 1 million to improve nutrition security in Lao PDR.

Earlier addressing the 19th East Asia Summit, PM Modi stressed on ASEAN's central role in the Indo-Pacific region and said that India's participation in the East Asia Summit was an important pillar of its Act East Policy.

PM Modi also met Thailand PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Vientiane. This was the first meeting between the two Prime Ministers.

## Giriraj Singh hits out at Kerala Govt for passing resolution against 'One Nation, One Election'

AGENCIES  
PATNA, OCT 11

As the Kerala Assembly passed a resolution against the 'One Nation, One Election' proposal, which is currently under active consideration by the Centre, Union Minister Giriraj Singh on Friday slammed the state government and asked why they were having a problem with it.

The resolution, which was approved unanimously on Thursday urges the Centre to drop the idea of implementing simultaneous elections in the nation.

With Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan indisposed, the resolution was introduced in the Kerala Assembly on his behalf by the Parliamentary Affairs

Minister M.B. Rajesh.

Rajesh while presenting the resolution pointed out that "if such an attempt becomes a reality it will weaken the federal structure of India and compromise the country's diverse parliamentary democracy" and termed it "undemocratic" and "unconstitutional."

Talking to IANS, Giriraj Singh said, "The implementation of 'One Nation, One Election' is very important for the country. This should happen, otherwise, development will be hindered and affected."

The Union Minister asked when would governments do developmental work if they would remain busy in elections.

"Elections happen in our

country very frequently. If 'One Nation, One Election' is implemented in the country it will save time for the government to focus on developmental projects," he added.

Talking about the 'Hindu Swabhimana Yatra' which will be starting from October 18, he said, "Today, I am starting from the areas where Hindus are becoming marginalised. I will start the Yatra from Bhagalpur and will go to Kathihar, Kishanganj and Araria. I am not going against any community. I am going to support the Hindus."

Giriraj Singh has said that he will embark on the yatra to urge the Hindu community to stay united and not get divided along caste lines.

## IAF C295 aircraft lands successfully at Navi Mumbai International Airport

AGENCIES  
NAVI MUMBAI, OCT 11

The Indian Air Force (IAF) C295 transport aircraft on Friday successfully conducted an inaugural landing at the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NIMA).

The C295 was traditionally welcomed by the cannon salute of the fire brigade and the Sukhoi 30 jets did a flypast over the southern runway of the airport.

The function was attended by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, DCM Devendra Fadnis, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Muralidhar Mohol, CIDCO chairman Sanjay Shirsat, Shiv Sena MP Shrirang Barne and NCP MP Sunil Tatkare among others.

The Chief Minister said the two phases of the airport which handles 20 million passengers annually will be operational in

March 2025 with the starting of domestic flights and thereafter international flight operations will be launched. He further stated that the airport will ease the traffic congestion at the Mumbai International Airport adding that the two airports will be connected through metro as well as roads.

CM Shinde said the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NIMA) will also handle 2.6 million tonnes of cargo annually. It will have two 3,700 m long parallel runways and four passenger terminals with a total terminal area of one million sq m. "It will be India's greenest airport with the potential to generate 36 MW of solar and wind energy. With four different terminals interconnected with each other, the passengers will have the option of an internal travel route to go from one terminal to another. It is India's first multi-modal

aviation hub connected by expressway, highways, two metro rail corridors, high-speed rails and tower taxied," he added.

The Chief Minister said that with the commissioning of the Atal Setu sea link and the upcoming airport, the Navi Mumbai and the adjoining areas will be completely transformed with the opening of a slew of development opportunities.

He said that the airport has the capacity to park 350 aircraft at a time. Also, this airport has four different terminals, and, since they are interconnected the passengers will have the option of an internal travel route to go from one terminal to another," said the CM. According to CIDCO, which holds 26 per cent equity in the airport, the airport is spread across 1,160 hectares of land and located approximately 35 km from Mumbai Airport.

## BJP's Tarun Chugh slams Akhilesh Yadav for 'drama' over JP Narayan tribute

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 11

Amid the ongoing controversy surrounding SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's allegations that the government in Uttar Pradesh installed tin sheets in front of the Jay Prakash Narayan International Centre (JPNIC) to prevent his entry to pay homage to the freedom fighter on Friday, BJP leader Tarun Chugh remarked that those who once crushed the principles of J.P. Narayan should stop their 'drama'.

"Those who crushed J. P. Narayan's ideologies and worked with them who imposed an emergency and turned the country into a jail for the sake of power, should stop their drama," said the BJP leader.

"Those sitting with the very people responsible



for crushing JP Narayan's movement are now invoking his ideals while their actions reveal otherwise," he added. The former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister alleged that the BJP government installed tin sheets in front of the JPNIC's gate on Thursday night to prevent his entry to pay tributes on

the freedom fighter's birth anniversary on Friday and a controversy has arisen over the issue in the nation's political circles.

Tarun Chugh also spoke about the Congress party's decision to set up a fact-finding committee after the poor show in the Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir elections.

The BJP leader remarked that the Congress' "crown prince" has once again faced failure with his 15th political launch.

"Those who, due to their stubbornness, have sidelined the party's policies and ideology to promote sycophants for the sake of establishing their own egos and dynastic rule, are now the ones convening to make decisions," said Tarun Chugh taking a dig at Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi.

He further claimed that the burden of Rahul Gandhi's 'lack of wisdom' has been borne by the Congress for decades.

"The people have rejected his appeasement policies, caste-based divisive politics, and his attempts to malign India on foreign soil while aligning with the 'Tukde Tukde gang'. The Congress today

stands without a leader, policy, and intention," professed the BJP leader.

On the Kerala Assembly's resolution against the 'One Nation, One Election' proposal, Tarun Chugh commented that a high-level committee has been formed in the nation's interest.

"The committee has consulted all stakeholders, including political parties. Election expenses should be reduced, and the country's financial resources should be used efficiently for national progress," he said.

He claimed that whenever there was a decision in national interest, the Congress and its allies created obstacles. "The 'One Nation, One Election' is the need of the hour, and this critical issue should be discussed and implemented, not politicised," he added.

## EVMS UNRELIABLE, BALLOT PAPERS WILL FACILITATE FAIR ELECTIONS: RASHID ALVI

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 11

Senior Congress leader Rashid Alvi on Friday made a fresh pitch for doing away with the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and returning to the ballot papers model for ensuring free and fair elections. He reasoned that the EVMs are unreliable and hence give the rivals a chance to 'manipulate' the poll outcome.

"Until elections are conducted using ballot papers, free and fair elections are impossible in this country," said Rashid Alvi.

He admitted that factional feud in Haryana could have hurt party's electoral prospects in



Haryana to some extent but not to the level of defeat because everyone including farmers, wrestlers were against the incumbent regime.

"I acknowledge that during elections, there is often internal sabotage. Those who don't get tickets

tend to oppose the party. This doesn't happen only in Congress; it occurs in all political parties. But what happened in Haryana is not just a result of internal sabotage or independent candidates. I've been saying for a long time that the EVMs are unreliable.

He further stated, "This happens in all parties, whether it's Congress, BJP, or others. No party is religious, working selflessly without expectations. Political parties have their own agendas, and we have witnessed major internal conflicts, just like the great Mahabharata, and power struggles have been a significant cause of it."

"In Haryana, some Congress members likely engaged in internal sabotage, and I do not doubt that. But the massive victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which hasn't been seen in years, what extraordinary feat did they accomplish to secure such a huge win? Surely, EVMs played a role in it," alleged

the Congress leader.

In Maharashtra, the cabinet recently took a step to increase the salaries of madrasa teachers, an initiative that Congress leader Rashid Alvi applauded.

He said, "All teachers, whether they teach in schools, madrasas, or colleges, should be paid at least enough to support their families. I would suggest Yogi Adityanath learn from this."

Commenting on Ajit Pawar leaving the Maharashtra cabinet meeting within ten minutes, Alvi said, "He must have many unfulfilled desires, which is why he is always frustrated whether he is with the BJP or Sharad Pawar."

## Cong misused Navratri festival for political gains: K'taka BJP chief

AGENCIES  
BENGALURU, OCT 11

The Karnataka BJP slammed the Congress government in the state on Friday, saying it "misused" the Navratri festival for political gains.

State Department of Information and Broadcasting released a poster with the caption "Victory of truth against evil forces and prayer to protect the government from the forces which are trying to destabilise it."

In a post on social media platform X, State BJP President B. Y. Vijayendra wrote, "Navratri, dedicated to worshipping the nine incarnations of Goddess Durga, has been

misused by corrupt Chief Minister and Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam prime accused, Siddaramaiah, for his political gains, which is unforgivable."

"CM Siddaramaiah, by issuing such advertisements, the sins and corrupt acts you have committed will not be forgiven. Lord Rama represents truth, but CM Siddaramaiah embodies cosmic falsehood. Lord Rama distanced himself from Sita to search for truth. If you (Siddaramaiah) wish to walk that path, you should resign from the Chief Minister's post and allow an investigation for truth-seeking," Vijayendra

said. The poster said, "Let the goddess Chamundeswari contain forces that are trying to destabilise the Karnataka government through deceit and wrong path."

It said communal violence, social stigmas, evil deeds, subversiveness, provocation, unrest, propaganda, lies and slander should be eliminated on Navratri.

"Communal clashes will have to be contained through peace and brotherhood, social stigmas through scientific knowledge, and breach of peace through destroying those who disturb the peace and evil deeds by stringent punishment.

## Himachal Pradesh's motorable tunnel bypasses revered Hanogi Mata temple!

AGENCIES  
MANALI, OCT 11

Unlike a must-visited temple for several decades, the revered Hanogi Mata temple, a "compulsory" stopover for almost every motorist on the Chandigarh-Manali highway along the mighty Beas river, in Himachal Pradesh dons a deserted look even during the nine-day Shardiya Navratri -- a Hindu festival celebrated with fervour across the country involving fasting and rituals.

The reason: A motorable tunnel on the high-

way bypassing the temple. Also, the old highway that passes through the temple has been shut down at Davada following a monsoon downpour.

The newly constructed 12.5-km-long twin tube tunnel built between the Pandoh dam and Aut as part of the Kiratpur-Manali four-lane highway project bypassed the landslide-prone stretch that passes via the Hanogi Mata temple which falls in the Drang Assembly constituency of Mandi district.

The temple of the Hanogi Mata dedicated to Goddess Saraswati is

located on the road where all drivers stop over for a few minutes with a belief that the goddess fulfills the wishes of those who pray there.

In a first as per the living memory of old-timers, the temple wore a deserted look during the Navratri.

Temple priest Acharya Vivek Sharma told IANS that earlier, the devotees thronged the temple around the year, especially on festive days like Navratri, and the temple remained open even at night.

"After the four-lane highway was opened for

traffic last year, the temple is lying empty. Now only a handful of people are coming here. Before the construction of the four-lane, all the traffic used to pass through the temple courtyard and every person used to go ahead after taking blessings of the Goddess," he said.

Former BJP local legislator Jawahar Thakur, who often comes to the temple and prays, said the government should restore the old highway passing through Hanogi temple.

After the old highway's closure, people of some local panchayats are also

facing problems and the devotees are not able to reach the temple.

"The government should restore this highway so that the number of devotees in the temple increases and the people also benefit from it," he added.

Himachal Pradesh has been aptly called Dev Bhoomi since ancient times as it is the home to ancient temples and 'shaktipeeth'. In the past, the Hanogi Mata temple near Pandoh remained in the news owing to heavy landslides that led to snapping of the road link for days

between Mandi and Kullu towns.

Even on normal days, motorists are advised to travel with precaution between Mandi and Kullu owing to landslide-prone, narrow and sinking stretches due to loose rock strata and vulnerable to being flooded by the Beas River that runs along the highway. At the closure of the road link, the Hanogi temple authorities were at the forefront of running community kitchens for stranded people, mainly lorry drivers.

The famous temple was partially damaged in a ter-

rible landslide in 2020. However, the sanctum sanctorum of the temple was safe.

A mound of boulders and debris from the hill atop dislocated and hit the Hanogi Mata temple and shops near it.

The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is executing the four-lane road project that will shorten the distance between Kiratpur in Punjab and Manali from 232 km to 195 km, reducing the travel time by three hours.

This month NHAI opened an eight-km-long bypass, part of the four-

lane road project, of Mandi town constructed at an outlay of Rs 725 crore. It has three major and seven minor bridges, along with four tunnels.

"On every road trip to Manali, we briefly halt at the Hanogi temple to seek blessings and pray for our safe onward journey," remarked Sarika Ghosh, a tourist from Kolkata heading to Manali.

"This time our cab driver told us that we have already crossed the temple as the new highway zooms through several tunnels, bridges and underpasses," she added.



# PM Modi leads India's efforts to preserve age-old civilisational connect with Laos

AGENCIES  
VIENTIANE, OCT 11

Deepening further the close partnership between two countries, India and Laos signed seven agreements, including on defence cooperation, following the bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Laos PM Sonexay Siphandone in Vientiane on Friday.

Quite significantly, three Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) - all having an Indian grant assistance of about USD 50000 each - under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation were also exchanged. They relate to preservation of heritage of Lao Ramayan, restoration of Wat Pakea Buddhist temple with murals related to Ramayan, and support to shadow puppetry theatre on Ramayan in Champasak province.

Immediately after his arrival in Laos for the ASEAN Summits on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had witnessed an episode of Lao Ramayan - also called Phalak Phalam

or Phra Lak Phra Ram - performed by the prestigious Royal Theatre of Luang Prabang. Ramayan continues to be celebrated in Laos, and the epic reflects the shared heritage and age-old civilizational connection between the two countries.

During their productive talks on Friday, the two Prime Ministers discussed further strengthening India-Laos civilizational and contemporary ties, besides mentioning various areas of bilateral cooperation such as development partnership, capacity building, disaster management, renewable energy, heritage restoration, economic ties, defence collaboration, and people-to-people ties.

"Had a wonderful meeting with Mr. Sonexay Siphandone, the PM of Lao PDR. Commended the warmth and hospitality of the people of Lao PDR as the hosts of the ASEAN related summits. We want to further invigorate the development partnership between our nations, especially in areas like skills,



energy, infrastructure, education and more," PM Modi posted on X after the meeting.

The Laos Prime Minister thanked PM Modi for India's flood relief assistance provided to the country in the aftermath of Typhoon Yagi. The two leaders also noted that the ongoing restoration and conservation of Vat Phou, a UNESCO World

Heritage Site, under Indian assistance by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) imparts a special dimension to bilateral ties.

"The two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the close cooperation between the countries in regional and multilateral fora. PM Siphandone reaffirmed India's role on the international stage. India has strongly supported Lao PDR's Chairmanship of ASEAN for 2024," read a statement from the PMO after the meeting.

Following the talks, Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements in the fields of defence, broadcasting, customs cooperation, and three Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) under the

Mekong-Ganga Cooperation were exchanged in the presence of the two leaders.

India will also provide a grant assistance of about USD 1 million to improve nutrition security in Laos. The assistance through India UN Development Partnership Fund, will be the Fund's first such project in South-East Asia. The details of the MoUs, agreements, and announcements may be seen here.

Later, PM Modi met Laos President Thongloun Sisoulith, also the General Secretary of the Central Committee of Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP), congratulating him for successfully hosting the ASEAN Summit and the East Asia Summit.

According to the PMO, the two leaders discussed bilateral ties and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen the close partnership. They noted that India-Laos contemporary partnership was deeply rooted in age-old civilizational

bonds and expressed satisfaction at the ongoing collaboration between the two countries in the fields of development partnership, heritage restoration and cultural exchanges.

"Highlighting that 2024 marks a decade of India's Act East Policy, Prime Minister noted its salience in adding further momentum to India's engagement with Laos. While referring to civilizational ties between the two countries, the Prime Minister called for strengthening people-to-people ties through the opportunities presented by the new Nalanda University. President Sisoulith thanked the Prime Minister for India's humanitarian assistance to Lao PDR in the wake of floods caused by Typhoon Yagi," read a statement from the PMO after the meeting.

As they discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest, Prime Minister Modi also thanked President Sisoulith for the support extended by Laos to strengthen India-ASEAN ties.

## Italy lodges protests with Israel for 'targeting' UN troops in Lebanon

AGENCIES  
ROME, OCT 11

Italy officially lodged a protest with Israel for "targeting" the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which hosts UNIFIL headquarters and two Italian bases.

On Thursday Defence Minister Guido Crosetto contacted his Israeli counterpart Yoav Gallant to complain, defining the events as "unacceptable to the Italian government".

But the minister said none of the 1,068 Italian troops deployed with the mission were injured.

Early on Thursday, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) fired on UNIFIL's positions, injuring two peacekeepers at the mission headquarters in Naqoura, according to a UNIFIL statement.

Israeli soldiers also fired towards a second UN position in southern Lebanon, hitting the bunker where peacekeepers were sheltering, and damaging a communication system, Xinhua news agency reported.

UNIFIL operates along the so-called "Blue Line" marking the separation between Israel and Lebanon, and currently counts

some 10,000 peacekeepers contributed by 48 countries.

In a phone conversation, Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni expressed her solidarity with UNIFIL Western Sector Commander, Italian general Stefano Messina, while Crosetto summoned the Israeli ambassador to lodge a formal protest, saying what was happening towards the UNIFIL contingent "clearly contradicts international law and is in open violation of Resolution 1701."

Unanimously approved by the UN Security Council, Resolution 1701 put an end to the previous war between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon in 2006 and strengthened the UNIFIL mission.

The latest events came amid an escalation along the Blue Line. Since September 23, the Israeli army has been launching intensive airstrikes across Lebanon and also launched a "limited" ground operation.

The total number of fatalities in Lebanon has exceeded 2,100, with over 10,000 individuals injured, according to Lebanese authorities.

## South Korea to hold high-level diplomatic dialogue with US, Japan next week: Officials

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, OCT 11

South Korea is in talks with the United States and Japan to hold a trilateral meeting among their vice foreign ministers next week, officials said Friday.

The three-way talks are expected to take place in Seoul, led by First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Hong-kyun, US Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell and Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Masataka Okano, Yonhap news agency reported.

Campbell is expected to fly in from Tokyo early next week as part of his visit to the two Asian allies.

"We are coordinating with the US and Japan to hold a vice foreign ministers' meeting next week," a foreign ministry official in Seoul said on condition of anonymity.

"The three countries plan to discuss North Korea, regional and global issues, as well as ways to



develop the trilateral cooperation," the official said.

Speaking at a business event in Washington on Thursday, Campbell unveiled the plan for his visit to meet with his counterparts in South Korea and Japan.

The tripartite meeting comes as Seoul and Washington are seeking to further cement the three-way partnership with Tokyo, especially with the leader-

ship change in Japan with new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and with the US presidential election less than a month away.

The leaders of the three countries declared a new chapter in their partnership at the trilateral Camp David summit in August last year. The summit produced a series of agreements, including the "Commitment to Consult" each other in the event of a shared threat.

The three sides have since taken follow-up steps to further solidify the partnership in line with the Camp David summit. Next week's vice-ministerial meeting, if held, will be the second such gathering after the previous talks held in May at Campbell's private retreat at Iron Bell Farm.

At their last meeting, the three countries agreed to establish a "coordinating body" to "institutionalise" the trilateral cooperation.

Discussions on the forming of such a mechanism are expected to be among the main agenda items at next week's talks.

They are also likely to discuss North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile threats, as Pyongyang has been ratcheting up tensions with its recent unveiling of a uranium enrichment facility and continued launches of trash-carrying balloons to South Korea.

## Sri Lanka: Written approval required for publishing President's photographs or messages

AGENCIES  
COLOMBO, OCT 11

In a major decision, the Sri Lankan government led by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Friday directed all government institutions to obtain a "written approval from the Presidential Secretariat" prior to displaying the President's photographs or messages on commemorative plaques or in designated celebration areas for various events.

While issuing guidelines to all state institutions, Nandika Sanath Kumarayake, Secretary to the Lankan President, also emphasised the importance of ensuring that government-funded activities align with state policies and vision.

"Written approval from the Presidential Secretariat is now required before publishing the President's photographs or messages on plaques or event displays. Additionally, all government-funded activities must strictly align with state policies and vision," the directive states.

The guidelines issued by Kumarayake have officially been communicated in writing to all ministry secretaries, provincial chief secretaries, department heads, chairpersons of government corporations, statutory board heads,



and heads of government-owned companies.

Last month, after taking over the island nation's Presidency, Dissanayake had ordered the reopening of roads around the Colombo Fort President's House, which had previously been closed due to roadblocks.

The President's House and its surrounding area had been classified as a high-security zone and were closed off to the public. However, after Dissanayake's appointment, all roadblocks were lifted.

Dissanayake had also directed relevant officials to allocate the luxury vehicles used by previous governments exclusively for essential services. The new government had expressed regret over the misuse of public funds and emphasised that a full review will be conducted, with the public being informed of future actions.

A total of 107 vehicles are parked at Galle Face and other locations, which were provided to associates of past governments under various positions.

## JAPAN'S GRASSROOTS ANTI-NUCLEAR WEAPON ORGANISATION AWARDED NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

AGENCIES  
OSLO, OCT 11

As nuclear powers modernise their arsenals and threaten their use amid various global conflicts, Japanese organisation Nihon Hidankyo, a grassroots movement of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, was on Friday awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2024 to showcase efforts to rid the world of these weapons of mass destruction.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee, which is tasked with deciding the recipient, announced that it has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Nihon Hidankyo "for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again".

It noted that in response to the atomic bomb attacks on these Japanese cities in August 1945, leaving

1,200,000 dead in the immediate moment and a similar number in the wake of the spreading radiation, a global movement arose whose members have worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of using nuclear weapons. Gradually, a powerful international norm developed, stigmatising the use of nuclear weapons as morally unacceptable.

This norm has become known as "the nuclear taboo" and the "testimony of the Hibakusha - the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki - is unique in this larger context", it said.

While the fates of those who survived the infernos in Hiroshima and Nagasaki were long concealed and neglected, the Committee said that in 1956, local Hibakusha associations along with victims of nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific formed the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers

Organisations. In Japanese, the name was shortened to Nihon Hidankyo, and it would become the largest and most influential Hibakusha organisation.

In awarding this year's Nobel Peace Prize to Nihon Hidankyo, the Norwegian Nobel Committee wishes to honour all survivors who, despite physical suffering and painful memories, have chosen to use their costly experience to cultivate hope and engagement for peace.

It said that Nihon Hidankyo has provided thousands of witness accounts, issued resolutions and public appeals, and sent annual delegations to the United Nations and a variety of peace conferences to remind the world of the pressing need for nuclear disarmament.

In the citation, the committee said that these "historical witnesses have helped to generate and consolidate widespread opposition to nuclear

weapons around the world by drawing on personal stories, creating educational campaigns based on their own experience, and issuing urgent warnings against the spread and use of nuclear weapons".

The Hibakusha help us to describe the indescribable, to think the unthinkable, and to somehow grasp the incomprehensible pain and suffering caused by nuclear weapons, it said. "One day, the Hibakusha will no longer be among us as witnesses to history. But with a strong culture of remembrance and continued commitment, new generations in Japan are carrying forward the experience and the message of the witnesses. They are inspiring and educating people around the world. In this way, they are helping to maintain the nuclear taboo - a precondition of a peaceful future for humanity."

The Norwegian Nobel Committee, however,

underlined "one encouraging fact" - that no nuclear weapon has been used in war in nearly 80 years and cited the "extraordinary efforts of Nihon Hidankyo and other representatives of the Hibakusha" as major contributions to the "the establishment of the nuclear taboo".

However, it termed "alarming" that today this taboo against the use of nuclear weapons is under pressure as nuclear powers modernise and upgrade their arsenals, new countries appear to be preparing to acquire nuclear weapons, and threats are being made to use nuclear weapons in ongoing warfare.

"Next year will mark 80 years since two American atomic bombs killed an estimated 120,000 inhabitants of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A comparable number died of burn and radiation injuries in the months and years that followed.

## South Korean President deepens ties with ASEAN, seeks support on North Korean issues

AGENCIES  
VIENTIANE, OCT 11

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol wrapped up a three-nation Southeast Asian trip Friday after a flurry of diplomacy to bolster relations with the strategic region and draw support on North Korean issues.

During the six-day trip, Yoon attended a series of annual summits involving the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Laos and made state visits to the Philippines and Singapore, Yonhap news agency reported.

It marked Yoon's third consecutive year attending the regional summit, which has grown in strategic significance amid the ongoing geopolitical rivalry between the United States and China.

This year, South Korea and ASEAN upgraded their relations to a "comprehensive strategic partnership," the highest level of relations that ASEAN



can forge with a dialogue partner.

South Korea is ASEAN's sixth dialogue partner to have the highest level of ties after the US, China, Japan, Australia and India.

Key discussions between Yoon and ASEAN leaders focused on expanding cooperation across several major sectors, including defence, the arms industry, digital technology, clean energy, cybersecurity and supply chains.

"As partners for shared prosperity, we will push for comprehensive cooperation covering a wide range of areas," Yoon said during the South Korea-ASEAN summit on Thursday.

In economic terms, ASEAN stands as South Korea's second-largest trading partner and investment destination, with bilateral trade totaling \$187.2 billion last year.

At the ASEAN Plus Three Summit, Yoon met with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and Chinese Premier Li Qiang to explore cooperation on a multilateral currency swap deal, rice reserve program, electric vehicle manufacturing infrastructure and cultural exchanges.

A significant focus of Yoon's diplomatic efforts was on rallying international support for addressing North Korea's nuclear threat.



# NOEL TATA LIKELY TO BE APPOINTED AS NEW TATA TRUSTS CHAIRMAN

AGENCIES

MUMBAI, OCT 11

As the Tata Trusts board meeting began on Friday to discuss group's succession plans after the demise of Ratan Naval Tata, reports surfaced that Noel Tata is likely to be appointed as the new Chairman of Tata Trusts.

However, an official confirmation was still awaited. Ratan Tata, the former Tata Group Chairman, passed away on October 9 aged 86.

The board meeting went underway in the financial capital to discuss the crucial succession plans. The trust deeds provide clear guidance on the appointment of the Trusts Chairperson, paving the



way for the key leadership transition.

Noel Tata currently chairs several companies within the Tata portfolio, including Trent, Tata International Ltd, and Voltas Ltd.

As vice-chairman of Tata Steel and Titan, Noel has been instrumental in the conglomerate's growth since joining the Tata Group in the early 2000s.

Earlier this year, Noel Tata's three children –

Leah, Maya and Neville – were appointed as trustees in multiple trusts associated with the Sir Ratan Tata Trust and Sir Dorabji Tata Trust.

Leah is currently vice president at The Indian Hotels while Maya is associated with Tata Capital. Neville is involved in Trent and the leadership team at Star Bazaar.

Tata Trusts is the umbrella body that manages functions of all 14 Tata trusts. Tata Trusts own 65.3 per cent of Tata Sons and play a significant role in guiding the direction of one of India's largest conglomerates.

Ownership of Tata Sons is largely held by two key trusts under Tata Trust – Sir Dorabji Tata Trust

and Sir Ratan Tata Trust, which together comprise over 50 per cent of the ownership.

The executive committee was chaired by Ratan Tata. The key three members of the committee are Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh as Vice Chairman of Tata Trusts and Mehli Mistry as trustee.

In fiscal FY23, Tata Trusts made significant contributions to various initiatives, totalling Rs 581.52 crore in grant disbursements. This funding was through main umbrella trusts: the Sir Ratan Tata Trust, which contributed Rs 456.42 crore, and the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, which disbursed Rs 125.10 crore.

# Demat accounts surge to 175 mn in India, active clients on NSE reach 47.9 mn

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCT 11

As Indian stock markets continue to outperform its global peers, the number of demat accounts increased to 175 million in the month of September, from 171 million in August, a report showed on Friday.

The number of active clients on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) increased 2.4 per cent (on-month) to 47.9 million in September.

The new account additions jumped 4.4 million in September, with average monthly additions of 4 million in current fiscal to date, according to the report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Currently, the top five discount brokers account

for 64.5 per cent of total NSE active clients compared to 61.9 per cent in the same month last year.

Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL) continued to gain market share in terms of the total number of demat accounts.

On a year-on-year basis, National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) lost 410bp/90bp market share in total/incremental demat accounts, according to the report.

While online brokerage Zerodha reported a 1.1 per cent (on-month) increase in its client count to 8 million, with a 20bp fall in market share to 16.6 per cent, Groww reported a 3.1 per cent increase in its client count to 12.3 million, with a 15bp rise

in market share to 25.6 per cent.

Angel One reported a 3.1 per cent increase in its client count to 7.4 million, with a 10bp rise in market share to 15.4 per cent.

Upstox reported a 1.5 per cent MoM increase in its client count to 2.8 million, with a 5bp fall in market share to 5.9 per cent, the report said. ICIICI Securities reported client count at 1.9 million, with a 10bp dip in its market share to 4.2 per cent.

According to the report, total overall average daily turnover (ADTO) grew 7.1 per cent (on-month) to Rs 538.6 lakh crore, with futures and options ADTO rising 7.2 per cent and cash ADTO declining 3.8 per cent.

# Maruti Suzuki Fronx crosses 2 lakh unit sales in 17 months

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCT 11

Car market leader Maruti Suzuki India on Friday said that its Fronx sports utility vehicle (SUV) has crossed the 2-lakh unit sales milestone in over 17 months of its launch.

The carmaker had launched the compact SUV in April, 2023.

"The latest sales milestone further strengthens Fronx's status as a game-changing product that combines bold styling with a tech-loaded cabin and various powertrain choices," the car company said in a media release.



Maruti Suzuki said that the compact SUV has gained significant traction among customers in Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities, with NCR, Delhi, Mumbai, Kochi, and Bengaluru emerging as the top five markets. It also said that there has been a significant surge in demand for the Fronx Turbo variant.

Fronx sold 1 lakh units in 10 months while another

1 lakh customers were added in 7.3 months.

"With a notable 16% YoY (year-on-year) growth in FY25, this compact SUV has captured the attention of first-time buyers while becoming the preferred choice for those upgrading within the segment," said Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Maruti Suzuki India.

# Elon Musk unveils Tesla's first Cybercab, Robovan and futuristic robot

AGENCIES

SAN FRANCISCO, OCT 11

Elon Musk-run Tesla on Friday unveiled its first Cybercab that will cost less than \$30,000 and the average operating cost will be nearly \$0.20 per mile, much less than a traditional city taxi.

The tech billionaire revealed a prototype of the EV company's first fully driverless vehicle during the robotaxi event dubbed as 'We, Robot' in the US, along with showcasing a line-up of futuristic vehicles that includes an electric van.

The Cybercab is a pur-



pose-built autonomous vehicle, lacking a steering wheel or pedals. The doors open upward like butterfly wings and a small cabin with only enough

space for two passengers.

Looking similar to Cybertruck, it does not have a plug-in charger and instead has "inductive charging," which is like

wireless charging, according to the Tesla owner.

The tech billionaire said that his autonomous cars are likely to be 10-20 times safer than traditional cars.

The company also showcased a new "Robovan" transport vehicle that can be configured as "mass transit" or a cargo carrier, saying that "the future is autonomous".

The EV company aims to launch fully autonomous driving in Texas and California next year, with the Cybercab production by 2026.

Tesla is also developing the Optimus robot, which could be available for

\$20,000-\$30,000, and is capable of performing various tasks. "This is a very big deal. It'll save lives, a lot of lives, and prevent injuries," said Musk.

"Think about the cumulative time that people spend in a car and the time they will get back that they can now spend on their books or watching a movie or doing work or whatever," Musk told the gathering at the event at Warner Bros studio.

Musk informed that Tesla will start performing "unsupervised FSD in Texas and California next year" with Model 3 and Model Y.

# Time to embrace modern tech for India's inclusive growth: Startup founders

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCT 10

India has the golden opportunity to embrace technology as a great enabler and multiplier, driving India's inclusive growth, industry experts and startup founders have stressed.

The startup ecosystem will generate more employment and there is a need to strengthen the policy ecosystem further, according to Sunil Kant Munjal, Chairman, Hero Enterprises.

"This is the phenomenal time to embrace the opportunity to turn the youth to valuable resources and embrace technology as a great enabler and multiplier," he said during a PHDCCI event in the national capital.

Sanjeev Bikhchandani, Founder and Executive Vice Chairman, Info Edge (India) Ltd, emphasised



that key factors driving India towards Viksit Bharat at 2047 include further reduction in regulatory compliances and increasing availability of capital, thereby nudging the forces in the right direction.

Speaking during a fireside session, Varun Alagh, Co-founder and CEO, Mamaearth (Honasa Consumers Pvt Ltd) said that there is a large scope of

safe healthcare products in India.

He expressed bullish sentiments for the personal care industry in India, adding that "women-driven workforce and strengthening research and development should be focussed in the coming times".

According to Ishpreet Singh Gandhi, Founder and Managing Partner,

Stride Ventures, last-mile financing is important and large capital is flowing to India under climate technology.

"New-age businesses and startups are performing well in India," he said.

The PHDCCI Economic Monitor has highlighted India's sustained economic resilience in recent years, with GDP growth averaging over 8 per cent in the last three fiscal years.

Key indicators such as a significant drop in CPI inflation, steady growth in industrial production (IIP), core infrastructure, exports, and financial markets underpin India's robust macroeconomic health.

Moreover, India's pivotal role in driving global economic growth is becoming increasingly evident, positioning the country as a powerhouse in the global economic system.

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCT 11

The Indian tech sector saw 83 deals valued at \$761 million in the third quarter (Q3) this year, marking the highest volumes since Q2 2023, a report showed on Friday.

The deal activity grew 5 per cent in volume and 31 per cent in value from the previous quarter, with 79 mergers and acquisitions and private equity (PE) deals worth \$635 million in the July-September period, according to Grant Thornton Bharat's deal-tracker.

The deal activity reflects a shift towards more strategic investments rather than large-scale acquisitions. However, the quarter witnessed 12 deals valued at and over \$20 million.

Private equity (PE) dominated deal values, accounting for 82 per



cent of the total, driven by three high-value deals over \$100 million that contributed \$358 million.

India saw a 58 per cent volume growth compared to Q3 last year, but a 53 per cent value decline, with no big-ticket M&A transactions since Q3 2023.

The July-September quarter saw two initial public offerings (IPOs)

totalling \$59 million, rebounding from the previous quarter. QIP activity remained steady with 2 deals valued at \$67 million.

Mergers and acquisitions activity rebounded after a significant drop in Q1 2024, marking the highest deal volumes since Q2 2023. The deal volumes grew by 44 per cent to 26

deals in Q3 2024, up from 18 in the previous quarter.

Deal values surged by 205 per cent to \$116 million, up from \$38 million in Q2.

The report mentioned that compared to Q3 2023, volumes increased by 53 per cent, while values decreased by 89 per cent due to the absence of big-ticket deals.

"Domestic M&A activity reached its quarterly highest since Q1 2022, showcasing robust activity within the sector. Outbound activity reached its highest quarterly volumes in three years, with outbound deals making up 62 per cent of total M&A deal values," the report noted.

Small-ticket transactions (less than \$5 million) dominated, accounting for 74 per cent of deal activity, showing a preference for smaller, strategic investments.

# Indian MF industry's average asset under management up 2.97 pc in Sep

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCT 10

The mutual fund schemes in India saw an average asset under management (AAUM) growth of 2.97 per cent in the month of September, Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) data showed on Thursday.

Moreover, the mutual fund industry's net assets under management (AUM) marginally increased by 0.58 per cent to Rs 67,09,259 crore at the end of September, as against Rs 66,70,305.14 crore in

August. Sectoral funds got a major inflow to the tune of Rs 22,244 crore. The total folios count of 21.05 crore is at an all-time high in September.

According to industry experts, the domestic investment story is very encouraging.

Hitesh Thakkar, Acting CEO, ITI Mutual Fund, said that investors are now able to understand that short-term volatility in the market is part of a long-term wealth creation journey.

"That is the reason

the share of financial assets has been increasing rapidly and within financial assets, MF share is increasing gradually," Thakkar said.

The mutual fund schemes saw an average AUM growth of 2.97 per cent for September, primarily attributed to the market movement.

"We have seen a 10 per cent drop in overall net inflows into the equity mutual fund schemes from Rs 38,239 crore to Rs 34,302 crore," said Deepak Ramaraju of Shri-



ram AMC.

On the prima facie, it looks like investors are concerned about the valuation, increasing geo-political uncertainty and moderation in earnings and hence, there is redemption from funds, experts said.

However, it's too early to pinpoint that liquidity in the system is slowing down and it can't be concluded that based on these concerns, we are seeing a drop in inflows, the experts added.

The SIP flows continue to back the Indian growth

story. Contributions crossed the Rs 24,000 crore mark for the first time.

"We will have to wait for how the global events play out - like the Chinese stimulus, the Fed Decision and the RBI's MPC policy stance.

In the long term as the interest rates ease, we may see more FII flows and the mutual funds flows may be expected to come back," said Ramaraju.

According to Sanjay Agarwal of CareEdge Ratings, equity inflows over

the last five months have been upwards of 0.34 lakh crore and driven by investor interest in thematic funds.

"Thematic fund inflows accounted for 39 per cent of the monthly equity inflows. During September, 27 open-ended NFOs were floated which collectively mobilised Rs 0.15 lakh crore with sectoral/thematic funds accounting for 54 per cent share. All categories witnessed inflows barring ELSS funds and focused funds segments," he said.



## Apollo Hospital Advances Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Awareness, Hyperbaric Society of India Marks 25 Years with Focus on Safety and Growth of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, OCT 11

The Hyperbaric Society of India, in collaboration with Apollo Hospital is committed to raising awareness about Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT), a revolutionary medical treatment that has grown significantly in the past decade. As part of the 25th-year celebrations of the Hyperbaric Society of India, we aim to educate the public and healthcare community about the benefits, applications, and safety protocols associated with this cutting-edge treatment.

What is Hyperbaric Medicine?

Hyperbaric medicine involves breathing pure oxygen in a pressurized chamber, which enhances the body's natural healing processes. The increased pressure allows oxygen to dissolve more effectively into the bloodstream, promoting faster recovery in patients with conditions such as chronic wounds, infections, carbon monoxide poisoning, and certain neurological conditions.

HBOT has been recognized for its ability to improve healing in non-healing wounds, such as diabetic foot ulcers, and has shown promise in treating radiation injuries, infections, and even traumatic brain injuries. With hyperbaric centers expanding across India, this therapy is now available not only in major cities but also in Tier II and Tier III cities.

Key Benefits of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT):

**Faster Wound Healing:** Particularly effective for patients with chronic, non-healing wounds.

**Enhanced Recovery:** Supports recovery in trauma, burns, and post-surgical healing.

**Neuroprotective Effects:**

Shows potential in treating neurological conditions like traumatic brain injuries.

**Reduced Inflammation:** Hyperbaric therapy helps reduce inflammation and promote tissue regeneration.

**Why the Need for Awareness?**

Despite its remarkable potential, many patients and even healthcare professionals remain unaware of the full scope of hyperbaric therapy's benefits. There is also a pressing need for safety regulations, certification, and standardized practices in administering hyperbaric treatments, which the upcoming International Conference in Hyperbaric Medicine will address.

**Challenges in Hyperbaric Medicine:**

**Lack of Regulation:** The rapid expansion of hyperbaric centers has led to the use of uncertified equipment and untrained practitioners in some regions. This poses risks to patient safety.

**Cost of Treatment:** The high cost of certified equipment and trained personnel makes it difficult for some patients to access this therapy.

**Unregulated Growth:** Without proper oversight, some clinics may offer incomplete or inappropriate treatments, compromising patient care.

**Conference Focus on Safety and Standards**  
At the International Conference in Hyperbaric Medicine (October 4-6, 2024, at The Suryaa, New Delhi), leading experts will discuss critical safety standards, regulatory frameworks, and best practices for hyperbaric therapy. Workshops and presentations will cover topics such as equipment safety, clinician certification, and patient care protocols, ensuring that the growth of hyperbaric medicine

in India is both safe and effective. The meeting has attracted over 50 doctors in this field and representatives from the industry, both within India and globally, with 31 papers being presented by doctors from across the country.

**Key Conference Highlights:**

**Workshop by Mr. Andrew R. Melnychenko:** Focused on safety standards in hyperbaric therapy, addressing the importance of proper equipment and protocols to prevent accidents.

**Keynote by Dr. Helen Gelly:** Modern wound management and emerging indications for HBOT, highlighting the therapy's potential for non-healing wounds.

**Special Session: Exploring the future of hyperbaric medicine in India,** including discussions on regulations, insurance, medical devices, and clinical best practices.

## IIIM Inks Pact with M/s HAPICO Industries Private Limited, IGC for Joint Products Development

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, OCT 11

The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) Jammu, and M/s HAPICO Industries Private Limited, IGC, have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on products testing/quality control, quality assurance, and the joint development of novel healthcare and nutraceutical products.

A CSIR-IIIM spokesperson informed the press that the MoU signing ceremony, held today at CSIR-IIIM, Jammu, marked a significant milestone in the synergy between these two esteemed organizations. This collaboration aims to leverage CSIR-IIIM's expertise in quality control and quality assurance and HAPICO's proficiency in the development of agri and nutraceutical products. Farmers in the local region of UT of J&K may also benefit from this collaboration, as it will contribute to the growing agri-economy of the UT.



During the event, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM, expressed keenness about the new partnership with HAPICO. "This collaboration perfectly aligns with CSIR-IIIM's mission to translate scientific discoveries into practical applications," he remarked. "By leveraging HAPICO's industry expertise, we aim to harness the full potential of our resources, fostering both economic growth and environmental sustainability." He further emphasized that this innovative partnership will significantly benefit local

farmers by empowering them to enhance the value of their crops, develop new products, and access larger markets.

HAPICO, recognized for its pioneering efforts in the industry, views this collaboration as a strategic step toward expanding its product portfolio and accelerating growth in the sector. "With the scientific expertise of CSIR-IIIM, HAPICO is positioned to create innovative and sustainable solutions that cater to the evolving needs of the market," said Mr. Shabir Ahmed, Managing Director of HAPICO.

## Valedictory Session for 7-Day Workshop on "Social Media Executive Training"

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, OCT 11

The Department of Commerce, Cluster University of Jammu, in collaboration with the School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu, under the mentorship of Honble Vice Chancellor Prof Sanjeev Jain successfully conducted the short term training program of 60 hours duration from 7th June 2024 to 26th June 2024 on Social Media Executive Training under "Upskilling Training Programme". The workshop was designed to equip students with essential skills and techniques to effectively navigate social media platforms for professional purposes. The certificates to the participants who completed course under the workshop were distributed on 11th October 2024 on occasion of valedictory ceremony. The ceremony was honoured by the presence of distinguished guests, including Dr. Vishal Sharma (Dean, School of Social Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu), Prof. Jaya Bhasin (Dean, Department of Human Resource Management and Organisational Behaviour, Central University of Jammu) and Dr. Shahid Mush-taq, (Assistant Professor, Department of Marketing and Supply Chain, Central University of Jammu).



In her valedictory address, Dr. Neetu Kumari, (Coordinator, Department of Commerce, School of Social Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu) expressed heartfelt gratitude to both the resource persons and participants, acknowledging their collective efforts in making the workshop a success. She underscored the value of the skills gained during the training program.

Prof. Jaya Bhasin commended the participants for their active engagement with the workshop

content and stressed on the importance of mastering these modern skills. Dr. Shahid Mush-taq emphasized the role of such capacity-building programs in shaping the next generation of professionals. Certificates of participation were awarded by the esteemed collaborative partners to all participants.

The participants left the event with a strong sense of accomplishment and a deeper understanding of social media strategies, eager to apply their newfound expertise in their respective careers. The occasion was attended by Dr. Rajneesh Karloopia and Dr Parul Chhibber faculty, Department of Commerce, School of Social Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu.

## DPS Junior, Kathua presents enthralling 'Ramleela' by Class 1 Students

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHU, AUG 11

Delhi Public School Junior, Kathua, recently hosted a captivating Ramleela performance, showcasing the immense talent and enthusiasm of the young students from Class 1. This remarkable event brought to life pivotal moments from the revered epic Ramayana, illustrating the triumph of good over evil. Under the meticulous guidance of their dedicated teachers, Mrs. Shalu, Ms. Bhavna, Mrs. Him Lata, and Ms. Shweta, the students delivered a memorable performance that left the audience awestruck.

The young actors embraced their roles with remarkable zeal, portraying key figures from the Ramayana, including Lord Ram, Sita, Lakshman, Hanuman, and Ravana. Through their enthusiastic performances, they recreated iconic scenes such as Lord Ram's exile and his eventual victory over the demon king Ravana. Despite their tender age, the students successfully



captured the essence of these timeless stories, engaging the audience with a blend of creativity and discipline.

The portrayal of these characters reflected not just theatrical skill but also a deep understanding of the values embodied by the epic, such as truth, justice, devotion, and the importance of righteousness. The performance of the young students resonated deeply with these moral lessons, making the event both entertaining and spiritually enriching.

Behind this successful performance was the unwavering dedication of the teachers, who meticulously planned and rehearsed for weeks to ensure each student could shine. Their careful direction was evident in every aspect of the production,

from the delivery of lines to the vibrant costumes and well-coordinated choreography. Each student was given the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the performance, ensuring that the entire cast worked together seamlessly to create a powerful and cohesive production.

Mrs. Monika Singh, the School Incharge, praised the efforts of the students and their teachers, emphasizing the significance of such cultural performances in the holistic development of young minds. "The story of Ramayana carries profound lessons in morality and ethics, and it is heartening to see our young students internalize and reflect these values through their performances. Their dedication is a testament to the guidance and encouragement pro-

vided by their teachers," she remarked.

The school's management and Principal also expressed their appreciation, commending the students for their talent and perseverance. "We are incredibly proud of how our young students have taken on the challenge of presenting this epic tale with such grace and enthusiasm. Their performance not only highlights their creativity but also reinforces the importance of staying connected to our cultural roots. This Ramleela performance is a reflection of teamwork, creativity, and the values we strive to instill in our students," they said.

The event concluded with a rousing round of applause and appreciation from the audience, including parents and teachers, who were moved by the children's ability to bring the ancient epic to life. The performance not only entertained but also left an indelible mark on all attendees, underscoring the importance of cultural education in the formative years of young students.

## GDC Ganderbal students outshine at Tech Vaganza festival

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCT 11

Marib Fayaz, student of 3rd Semester of Govt Degree College, Ganderbal, has emerged victorious in the Tech-Vaganza festival, securing the First Prize in the tech competition held at National Institute of Technology Srinagar. The two-day annual technological fest, 'Techvaganza,' started from October 10, 2024.

The event showcases the creativity and talent of students from across the Kashmir valley, with participants demonstrating their skills through a variety of programs.

Prof Fouzia Fatima, Principal of Government Degree College Ganderbal expressed happiness for the outstanding achievement of the students especially Marib Fayaz, student of 3rd Semester and other students and described it as a testament to the exceptional talent and dedication of the students and a remarkable feat for the college.

## 'College Outreach Prog': Counselling provides vital insights on courses, career choices, competitive exams: KU VC

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KUPWARA, OCT 11

To provide college students of farflung areas with awareness regarding the new courses being offered by the University of Kashmir (KU) at its main and satellite campuses and orient them with practical strategies for navigating career choices and competitive exams, the varsity is organising a comprehensive campaign.

The varsity's Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMRC) and the Students' Counselling and Guidance Cell (SCGC), Public Relations Centre (PRC) entrusted with undertaking the campaign, Thursday, organised an event at Government Degree College (GDC), Tangdhar, Karnah.

The event brought together experts from various fields to offer valuable insights on different academic courses, career planning and online education and the varied

career opportunities in different sectors.

In her message, KU Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofar Khan, reaffirmed the institution's commitment to equipping students with the necessary tools to make informed career decisions.

"At KU, our aim is not only to impart academic knowledge but to guide students in confronting the challenges of today's competitive job market. Such sessions offer clarity and direction, bridging the gap between aspirations and reality," she said.

Senior Producer at EMRC, KU, Ajaz-ul-Haque, addressed the issue of career confusion, advising students to understand their uniqueness and aptitude.

"We are like fingerprints -- no two are alike. Know your strengths, find opportunities that match your talents and be prepared for the tests and chances



that will come your way," he suggested.

Speaking on the role of online education offered by KU, Senior Producer at EMRC, KU, Dr Tariq Abdullah, highlighted the significance of platforms like SWAYAM and SWAYAM PRABHA.

"Online education, especially through SWAYAM and SWAYAM PRABHA, offers flexibility and access to quality learning resources. It's an excellent opportunity for students to learn and grow beyond

traditional classrooms," he said, adding that technology has made education accessible to all, but awareness of these opportunities is key.

Principal, GDC Tangdhar, Prof Mushtaq Ahmad Wani, who inaugurated the session, emphasised the importance of vision and timely career guidance.

"Education extends beyond the classroom. It is about gaining the vision to navigate the challenges that lie ahead. A well-cho-

sen career aligned with one's passion leads to fulfilment and success," he reiterated, terming the session a significant milestone.

Discussing the preparation for the civil services examination, Block Development Officer (BDO), Karnah, Dr Irfan Ali Khan, stressed the need for discipline, persistence and a well-structured approach.

Manager, J&K Grammeen Bank, Tangdhar, Kamaljeet Singh, offered crucial advice for banking exams, emphasising the importance of speed and accuracy.

Head, Department of Environmental Sciences, GDC, Tangdhar in his welcome address, encouraged students to aspire and work diligently towards their goals.

KU's Career Counsellor at SCGC, PRC, Mir Zubair Rashid, provided an overview of courses offered by the varsity at its main and

satellite campuses besides discussing career opportunities both within and outside the university.

"From academia to the corporate world, the range of opportunities is vast, but success comes from identifying the right fit for your talents and aspirations," he explained.

Yasir Badhana, an alum of the college, who successfully cleared the CDS Mains examination, shared his personal journey and the inspiration he found in the uniform of the Indian Army.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, where students engaged with the speakers to seek clarifications on various aspects of career planning and competitive exams.

Faculty, Department of English, GDC, Tangdhar, Prof Sadaf Rouf, conducted the proceedings of the event while, Head, Department of History, Dr Bilal Ahmad Sheikh, GDC Tangdhar, proposed the formal vote of thanks.

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, OCT 11

Congratulating National Conference and Congress for their landslide victory in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, social worker Raj Kumar Goyal has said that it is hoped that both the parties will give a strong and people-friendly government to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that this time there was a storm of National Conference in the assembly elections. The party captured 42 seats due to its pro-people policies. After this, independent candidates also supported the party. Since the alliance between National Conference and Congress is going on even before the elections, it is expected that the government of both the parties will be formed soon and the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir will be kept in mind. He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are



currently troubled due to inflation, unemployment, paper leaks, high electricity bills, smart meters, property tax and attitude of officials of government departments. People are hoping that after coming to power, the National Conference will take effective steps to eliminate all these problems. In the past also the National Conference government has been working for the people, now again the people have a lot of expectations from them. He hopes that every promise made to the people before the elections will be fulfilled.



# Div Com Jammu inaugurates 7 days Gandhi Shilp Bazar at Jammu Haat

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 11

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today inaugurated Gandhi Shilp Bazaar, a 7 day exhibition of exquisite hand-craft and handloom products at Jammu Haat, Dogra Chowk, Jammu.

The event has been organised by the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Handicrafts Service Centre, Jammu.

50 artisans and weavers from various parts of India are exhibiting their craftsmanship by displaying their products for sale in Jammu Haat from 11th to 17th of this month.

While speaking on the occasion, Divisional Commissioner applauded the efforts of the department



and stressed that such type of events should be organised regularly for providing marketing platform to the artisans and weavers.

He added that the handicrafts fosters creativity and reflects expression and aesthetic beauty of an artist.

Ambika Sambyal, Assis-

tant Director, Handicrafts Service Centre, Jammu apprised the Div Com that the Exhibition presents different crafts from different regions spanning from bamboo, Jute, Dry Flower and Sital Patti from North East, Embroideries and Madhubani painting from Bihar and West Bengal, Kasuti Sarees from South

India, Gujarati embroideries and patch work, Banarsi sarees, Stone Carving, Rugs and Durries, Zari Zardosi from Uttar Pradesh, Woodware and Art Metal Ware from Rajasthan, Phulkari, wood inlay and jutties from Punjab, Kullu Shawls to crafts life terracotta, candle, hand block printing etc from various

other states.

She informed that apart from this Local crafts of Jammu and Kashmir are also on display like Basohli Shawl, Pashmina Shawls, Kashmiri Embroideries, Basohli Painting, Binna craft etc. Such type of Exhibition known by the name Gandhi Shilp Bazaar nationwide is first of its kind in Jammu Haat.

The vote of thanks was presented by Anirudh Kapil, Assistant Director, HSC, Jammu while the programme was conducted by Disha.

Other dignitaries present in the inaugural session of the marketing event include Ruchika Gupta, Chairperson, FICCI Flo (JKL) and Director Handicrafts and Handloom, UT of J&K, Suraj Prakash Rakwal.

## Chairperson DDC Ramban kick starts work on Hamsheela to Ghagra village link road



JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, OCTOBER 11

Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC), Ramban, Dr. Shamshad Shan, today initiated the commencement of construction work on a crucial 3 km link road connecting Hamsheela to Ghagra village Bhimdassa block Dharam.

This significant infrastructure development project, with an allotted 5.91 crore, is being undertaken under NABARD by the Public Works Depart-

ment.

Highlighting the importance of this endeavor, Dr. Shamshad Shan remarked that upon completion, the link road will address a longstanding demand of the area, substantially improving the lives of local residents by enhancing connectivity and accessibility.

She urged the engineers of the PWD to uphold rigorous standards to ensure that the project benefits the multitude of individuals relying on the road network in the vicinity.

The Chairperson also took the opportunity to engage with members of the community, attentively listening to their concerns and developmental needs, reaffirming her commitment to addressing their grievances and fostering inclusive development.

Assistant Engineer PWD Sub Division Gool Tariq Ahmed, Engineers of PWD, Haris Majeed, Nadeem Shah, prominent citizens, and the general public were present on the occasion.

## 'Wildlife Week' Culmination celebrated at Hokersar

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 11

The week-long celebration of Wildlife Week 2024 concluded with a grand culmination event at the picturesque wetlands of Hokersar, fostering awareness and appreciation for the rich biodiversity of our natural world.

This year's theme, 'Wildlife Conservation through Co-existence' resonated deeply with participants, who gathered to honor the vital role wildlife plays in maintaining ecological balance.

The chief guest on the occasion Tawheed Ahmad Deva, Regional Wildlife Warden, Department of Wildlife Protection remarked on the importance of such initiatives, stating, "Wildlife Week serves as a reminder that our commitment to conservation must be unwavering. Every action we take today shapes the future of our planet. Together,



we can ensure that our diverse ecosystems thrive for generations to come."

In his address, Deva emphasized the significance of community involvement in wildlife preservation, stating, "It is not just the responsibility of government agencies; every individual has a role to play in safeguarding our

natural heritage. By fostering a culture of respect for wildlife, we can create a harmonious coexistence between humans and nature."

Simultaneously World Migratory Bird Day 2024 was also celebrated at the renowned Hokersar Wetlands, a vital habitat for countless migratory birds.

The theme for this year's Migratory Bird Day is 'Protect Insects, Protect Birds'. The theme highlights the importance of insects to migratory birds and the need to protect the declining insect population.

Speaking on the occasion, Altaf Hussain, Wildlife Warden Wetlands highlighted the importance of protecting these avian travelers and their ecosystems. He said that the Migratory Bird Day serves as a reminder of our shared responsibility to protect the natural corridors that these birds rely on. Every flight across continents is a testament to the resilience of nature, and we must ensure that future generations can witness this wonder.

Every year, millions of birds undertake incredible journeys, and it is our duty to safeguard their paths, he further said.

The event featured a

variety of activities, including guided nature walks, bird watching tours, educational workshops and interactive discussions led by wildlife experts. Participants had the opportunity to witness the firsthand beauty of local flora and fauna while engaging in meaningful conversations about conservation efforts and sustainable practices.

In the concluding session participants reflected on the week's events and the shared commitment to protecting the environment. The culmination of Wildlife Week 2024 stands as a testament to the collective effort needed to nurture and conserve our planet's invaluable wildlife. The event was attended by a diverse gathering of eminent environmentalists, wildlife enthusiasts, students and educators, local community members, representatives from NGOs and senior officers from the Forest and Wildlife Department.

## 'International Girl Child Day': DLSA Srinagar organizes Awareness programme at GBHSS Mujgund

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 11

In observance of 'International Girl Child Day,' the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with the School Education Department, Srinagar, today organized an awareness program at Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Mujgund.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman DLSA/Pr. District and Sessions Judge Srinagar, and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

The programme aimed to empower and educate young girls about their legal rights and opportunities. The objective was to promote awareness about issues like gender equality, child marriage and domestic violence, providing girls with the knowledge



and resources they need to protect themselves and advocate for their rights.

The program was attended by the principal, staff members and students of Government Boys Higher Secondary School Mujgund, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, Sehar Nazir, and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar.

Sehar Nazir, served as the resource person for the program. She captivated the students with her insightful speech, highlighting the significance of girls' education and their rights. She also empha-

sized the importance of equal opportunities and encouraged the girls to pursue their dreams, breaking free from societal limitations, urging the participants to actively advocate for their rights and contribute towards a more equitable society.

The enthusiastic participation of the students showcased their eagerness to learn and contribute to a brighter future. The program concluded with a Q&A session where students actively engaged with Sehar, seeking clarification on various legal and social issues.

## DC Kishtwar asks for 100 pc saturation of Government Policies in Model Panchayats

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 11

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan, today conducted a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in key indicators under 13 designated Model Panchayats of District Kishtwar, during a comprehensive meeting with key line departments.

During the meeting, the concerned officers briefed the DDC on the progress made under the 78 key indicators in the 13 designated Model Panchayats, in relation to their respective departments. Pertinent to mention that the DDC has prioritised 13 Panchayats for saturation of all Govt schemes on pilot basis. These 13 panchayats have been taken one each from 13 blocks. The same models will be replicated in rest panchayats.

The DDC emphasized the need to focus on 100% saturation of these parameters at the ground level in each Panchayat. He urged all Sectoral officers and Field Functionaries to work collectively and collaboratively to meet the set targets, ensuring that Cen-



trally Sponsored Schemes, individual-oriented beneficiary schemes and social security programs reach the maximum number of beneficiaries.

While reviewing the indicators on a Panchayat-wise basis, the DDC directed the RDD, Revenue, Forest, and Jal Shakti departments to collaborate in identifying and preserving water bodies in each Panchayat. He stressed the importance of protection, conservation, and development of these water bodies, along with ensuring extensive plantation, desilting, and cleanliness and geo tagging of water bodies and springs.

The DDC also asked the District Youth Services and Sports Officer to coordinate with Block Development Officers (BDOs) to form or reactivate Youth Clubs in each Panchayat. These clubs will work with other stakeholders to raise awareness about beneficiary schemes and the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan (Drug-Free Campaign).

The DDC instructed the SDMs to devise effective monitoring systems in collaboration with field officers to ensure thorough monitoring of the implementation of indicators in these Model Panchayats. He also directed the formation of Village

Level Committees (VLCs) in each Panchayat, including members from SC/ST communities, women, and retired employees, to monitor the saturation of parameters at the ground level. The stakeholders were directed to formulate strategies for achieving goals related to the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, Plastic-Free Panchayat, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, ODF Panchayat, and Anemia Mukta Abhiyan in these Panchayats.

The meeting was attended by Sectoral and District officers, block level officers besides Panchayat level functionaries of Model Panchayats.

## Faculty of Fisheries Rangil celebrates Graduation Day for 2024 BFSc pass-out students

JI NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 11

The Faculty of Fisheries, Rangil, Ganderbal, celebrated its graduation day today for the 2024 BFSc pass-out students with great enthusiasm and pride at Rangil Campus, here.

The event was graced by several distinguished guests, including Vice-Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir Prof. (Dr.) Nazir Ahmad Ganai as the Chief Guest, and Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal Shyambir, as the Guest of Honour.

Director Education SKUAST-Kashmir Prof. (Dr.) Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Dean Students Welfare Prof. (Dr.) Neelofar Banday, Dean Faculty of Fisheries Prof. (Dr.) Farooz Ahmad Bhat, as well as all Heads of Divisions, faculty members, officers of Faculty of Fisheries and the graduating students were also present on the occasion.

Speaking in the event, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Nazir Ahmad Ganai praised the graduates for their efforts and urged them to think innovatively and contribute positively to society. He



emphasized their role as ambassadors of SKUAST-Kashmir.

The Deputy Commissioner congratulated the students and promised full support for the development of the SKUAST-K Rangil campus. He also acknowledged the university's excellence in producing top talent, especially in fisheries sci-

ence. Earlier, Dean Faculty of Fisheries, Prof. (Dr.) Farooz Ahmad Bhat delivered a warm welcome to the dignitaries and spoke about the vital role of the fisheries sector.

He highlighted the achievements of the graduating batch and underscored the need for continuous learning and

leadership in fisheries. Director Education Prof. (Dr.) Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi stressed the importance of quality education in fisheries science and encouraged the students to use their skills for the betterment of society and the nation.

Graduating students expressed their gratitude to the guests and shared reflections on their educational journey. On the occasion Vice-chancellor and Deputy Commissioner along with other dignitaries inaugurated the Vice-Chancellors Sports festival; besides, two books titled Communication and Journalism along with Fisheries Management were released on the occasion.