

JANSAMPARK
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DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool
- Redness in eyes

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Blaze wreaks havoc in Kishtwar, Gurez; 94 houses, 10 shops turned into ashes

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU/GUREZ, OCT 14

At least 94 houses and ten shops were gutted in massive fire incidents in remote areas of Marwah in Kishtwar district and Gurez area on Monday.

Official sources told the news agency that fire broke out in a house and engulfed others in its vicinity, damaging over 90 houses.

The cause of the fire is being ascertained.

After receiving the information, senior officials rushed to the spot.

Reports said that senior officials have reached the



spot and are assisting locals efforts to douse off flames which were raging when this report was filed.

So far, there are no reports as regards any loss or injury to life in the fire incident.

Fire tenders from Anantnag are also heading towards Marwah area to assist its counterparts, they said.

Moomin ul Islam, Deputy Director Fire and Emergency Service, said

that he along with other officials was heading to the spot to oversee measures for bringing under control the fire.

A firefighting operation is currently underway.

Meanwhile, the newly elected MLA of Inderwal, Pyare Lal Sharma said that relief operation is under way and administration has already rushed to the affected spot.

He said that upcoming NC government will do all the possible help for the affected families.

Rajesh Kumar Shavan, Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, said that the

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SC rejects plea against nomination of MLAs to J&K assembly by Lt Governor

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 14

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a petition against Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor's proposal to nominate five members to the assembly. The top court asked the petitioner to approach the high court.

Reorganisation Act, 2019, J&K Lieutenant Governor has the authority to nominate five members to the assembly - two women, two Kashmiri pandits, and a resident of Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

According to news agency, a bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar stated, "We are not inclined to entertain the present petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India and give liberty to the petitioner to approach the jurisdictional high court by way of writ petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India. We clarify that we have not expressed any opinion on merits."

During the hearing, senior advocate Dr Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing petitioner Ravinder Kumar Sharma, argued, "When you have

this system of nominating beyond 90, 48 is my alliance, which is three above the majority. If you nominate five, you become 47 and I become 48. This can negate the elected mandate. A central government nomination can undermine the electoral outcome. Suppose this five becomes ten tomorrow through an amendment?"

In response, Justice Khanna noted that the power in question has not yet been exercised and suggested that the high court should be approached first.

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ED attaches property worth over Rs 1 crore in J&K paper leak case

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 14

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday attached four immovable properties worth over Rs 1 crore in paper leak case linked to Jammu and Kashmir common entrance test 2012.

In a post on X, the federal agency, as per news agency stated that it has provisionally attached four immovable properties worth Rs 1.31 crore belonging to Sajad Husain Bhat,

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It is Official: J&K to form Govt after a decade as Omar gets LG's invite, Oath ceremony on Oct 16

'Principal Sec to LG visits Omar, hands over LG's invite for oath ceremony'

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 14

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday invited the Chief Minister designate Omar Abdullah and his council of ministers for administration of Oath of Office at SKICC on October 16.

A letter issued by the LG from Rajbhawan, a copy of which is with the news agency, reads: "I am pleased to invite you to form and lead the Government of Jammu and Kash-



mir. As separately settled, I shall administer Oath of Office and Secrecy to you, and to those recommended by you for induction as

members of your Council of Ministers, at SKICC, Srinagar on 16th October, 2024 at 11:30 a.m."

The letter further states

that "I take this opportunity to wish you a highly productive tenure and success in your endeavours in the best interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

It said: "I have received a letter of 11th October, 2024 from Dr. Farooq Abdullah, President, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, wherein it has been informed that you have been unanimously elected as Leader of the Legislature Party."

The letter also states that "I have also received a letter from Tariq Hameed

Karra, President, J&K Pradesh Congress Committee, G. N. Malik, Secretary, CPI(M), Shri Pankaj Kumar Gupta, National Secretary, Aam Aadmi Party and Independent MLAs namely, Payare Lal Sharma, Satish Sharma, Ch. Mohd. Akram, Dr. Rameshwar Singh and Muzafar Iqbal Khan, offering support in the formation of the Government led by you."

Omar wrote on X, that "was pleased to receive the Principal

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EAM Jaishankar set to arrive in Pakistan on tuesday to attend SCO meeting

AGENCIES
LAHORE, OCT 14

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is set to land in Pakistan on Tuesday to attend a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), in the first high-level visit from India in years amid continuing strain in ties between the two neighbours.

Shortly after he arrives in Islamabad, the external affairs minister is likely to attend a banquet reception hosted by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to welcome the delegates from the SCO member nations, people



familiar with the matter said.

Both sides have already ruled out any bilateral talks between Jaishankar and his Pakistan counterpart Ishaq Dar on the sidelines of the SCO heads of government summit.

It will be for the first time in nearly nine years that India's foreign minister will travel to Pakistan,

even as the ties between the two neighbours remain frosty over the Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

It is learnt that Jaishankar will stay in Pakistan for less than 24 hours.

Pakistan is hosting the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting on October 15 and 16.

The last Indian Foreign Minister to visit Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj. She had travelled to Islamabad in December 2015 to attend a conference on Afghanistan.

In August, Pakistan invited Prime

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NC-Congress alliance have challenges to restore lost rights, guarantees: Karra

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 14

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President, Tariq Hameed Karra on Monday said that the National Conference and Congress alliance has taken a challenge to form the government in the Union Territory with an aim to restore the snatched the rights and guarantees of erstwhile state.

He also said that all the decisions taken by Lieutenant Governor led administration in Jammu and Kashmir will be reviewed.



As per the news agency, Karra told the reporters that the people have achieved their target of keeping Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) away from the power corridors by voting in favour of the alliance candidates in Jammu and

Kashmir. "It is peoples' victory," he added.

Karra further said that in the Union Territory, the President's rule has to end before the formation of any government, adding that the order has

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Congress in crisis as political ground slips in J&K

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 14

The Congress party finds itself at a crossroads in Jammu and Kashmir after suffering a major setback in the recently concluded assembly elections. With only 6 seats out of 90 in the state assembly, the party has not only been marginalized but is now grappling with internal dissent and an uncertain future.

The elections, held after a decade, have exposed the weakening grip of the Congress, especially in its former stronghold-Jammu region. While the party traditionally fared well in Jammu and gave tough competition to

regional parties in Kashmir, it has now lost ground to both regional rivals and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has steadily deepened its influence in Jammu over the last two decades.

Party insiders told the news agency that the dismal electoral outcome has triggered factionalism within the Congress, with leaders from the Jammu division openly expressing frustration.

Many senior leaders blame the alliance with the National Conference (NC) for the party's poor performance, citing dissatisfaction over ticket distribution and lacklustre campaigning. Internal meetings have been held

to address these grievances, but the situation remains volatile.

Even before the elections, some Congress leaders had opposed the alliance with NC, fearing it would hurt the party's prospects. "The ticket allocation process was flawed, and senior leaders were ignored," sources said. The appointment of multiple acting presidents before the elections further alienated party members, exacerbating the crisis.

Furthermore, Congress leaders have also voiced displeasure over the working style of the party's in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir, Bharat Singh Solanki. Many claim that Solanki focused predomi-

nantly on Kashmir while neglecting Jammu, where Congress had fielded 32 candidates. Out of 43 seats in the Jammu division, the party secured only one seat-Rajouri.

Shockingly, all 21 Hindu candidates fielded by the party in Jammu lost, adding to the sense of disillusionment. Even traditional Congress strongholds like Surankot, Reasi, Banihal, and Inderwal—which the party held in 2014—have now slipped from its grasp. "The party didn't learn from its defeat in the Lok Sabha elections," sources said.

On the other hand, Jammu and Kashmir Congress president Tariq Hameed Karra has hinted

at organisational changes, but the delay in appointing new state committee officials has only deepened the frustration among party workers. With no Legislative Council in place, Congress leaders fear they will have minimal influence in the coalition government led by the National Conference.

Senior Congress leaders in Jammu are demanding greater representation, fearing they will be overshadowed by Kashmir-centric politics. "If the focus remains solely on Kashmir, it will become difficult for the party to recover its position in Jammu," said a party insider. Leaders are worried that without

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BJP to hold meetings soon to elect LoP in J&K Assembly: Ravinder Raina

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 14

Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina felicitated the newly-elected party MLAs here on Monday and said the leader of opposition will soon be selected after holding meetings with party leaders under the command of central observers.

BJP national general secretary and in-charge of Jammu and Kashmir Tarun Chugh, who has been appointed as a central observer by the party,



said they will hold meetings with the newly-elected legislators and other leaders on the issue and submit a report to central leaders for further action.

Led by Raina,

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AAP runs failed Govts in Delhi, Punjab, claims Tarun Chugh

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 14

A day after Arvind Kejriwal advised Omar Abdullah to consult him if he faces any issues running Jammu and Kashmir as a Union Territory, BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh claimed that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is running failed governments in Delhi and Punjab.

On Sunday, former Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal thanked the people of Doda for electing AAP's first legislator in Jammu and Kashmir. Congratulating Omar



Abdullah, Kejriwal offered advice, suggesting Omar consult him if he faces any difficulties in managing a "half-state."

However, on Monday, Chugh criticized Kejriwal. "AAP is running

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MP Rashid takes a jibe at Omar over Article 370 remark

JINNEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, OCT 14

Member of Parliament Sheikh Abdul Rashid on Monday slammed National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah for his remarks on Article 370, stating that he shifted his focus from seeking restoration of Article 370 to demanding Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking with media persons in Bandipora, Rashid, as per the news agency, said that NC was previously demanding restoration of Article 370, but now that they are in power their focus has shifted to Statehood.



Asked about Omar Abdullah's remarks that NC will wait for restoration of Article 370 till Congress government comes to power at Centre, he said what if BJP remains in power for 40 years. "This is a political issue, and it should be fought politically. Neither courts nor statements will restore Article 370; we must fight for it through a political movement."

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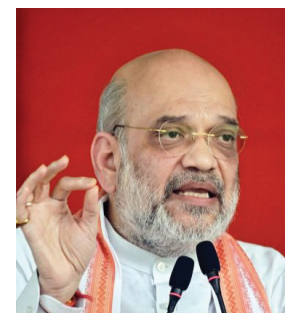
Hunt against drugs and narco trade will continue with no laxity: Amit Shah

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

A day after seizure of cocaine worth Rs 5,000 crore in Gujarat, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that the hunt against drugs and narco trade will continue with no laxity.

Shah said the Modi government is committed to building a drug-free Bharat by protecting the youth from the scourge of drugs.

"I congratulate Delhi Police for the series of successful operations seizing drugs worth Rs 13,000



crore, including the recent one with Gujarat Police recovering cocaine worth Rs 5,000 crore.

"The hunt against drugs & narco trade will continue with no laxity," he wrote on 'X'.

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Aijaz Asad reviews progress on 'Himayat' scheme



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14

Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Monday chaired a meeting to review progress on Himayat Scheme in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting focused on evaluating the progress and future of the scheme aimed at skilling and employing rural youth in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Director, RDD, Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat, Director Finance, Umar Khan, Chief Operating Officer, Himayat, Rajneesh Gupta, Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar, Additional Secretary, Kartar Singh, Deputy Secretary Abdul Khair and others.

During the meeting, the Secretary evaluated the status of Himayat Scheme and suggested measures to enhance its

implementation across the UT. He emphasized the need for skill gap analysis and strengthening of support activities such as job fairs and alumni meets to enhance outreach and mobilization. He urged officials to collaborate to achieve the scheme's targets and ensure that benefits reach even the most remote areas.

Aijaz Asad also called for creation of an action plan for the scheme's next phases, focusing on districts that have not been adequately covered. He highlighted the need to train candidates in in-demand and emerging fields.

The Secretary stated that the Himayat Scheme can be further enhanced to ensure that more rural youth in Jammu and Kashmir have access to quality training and employment opportunities.

It was informed that 32,218 candidates have

been trained under the Himayat Scheme so far, with 14,390 successfully placed in various sectors. Additionally, 702 individuals are currently undergoing training.

Chief Operating Officer, Himayat, Rajneesh Gupta, briefed about the performance and ongoing activities of the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs).

He acknowledged challenges such as the non-commencement of new projects since January 2022 and the lack of migration support centers, which have impacted job retention for those placed outside the Union Territory.

To address these issues, Gupta proposed several recommendations, including the engagement of district and block-level staff, the onboarding of new PIAs, the establishment of a central monitoring center, and the conduct of skill gap analyses.

Awareness programme on 'International Girl Child Day' held at GGHSS Dawar Gurez

JNEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 14

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 Gurez and in collaboration with Education Department Bandipora organized an awareness programme on 'International Girl Child Day' at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Dawar Gurez under the theme 'Girls' vision for the future'.

The programme organized under the chairmanship of Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman (Principal District and Sessions Judge) Bandipora and guidance of Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun, Secretary DLSA Bandipora, was inaugurated by Chairman TLSC (Munsiff/JMIC)



Gurez, Mehak Mehboob along with Principal Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School Dawar Gurez.

They highlighted the detrimental consequences of child marriage, emphasizing the legal implications and the impact on a girl's education and health, and to reaffirm our commitment to empowering girls and ensuring their safety. The awareness

program was met with a positive response from the students and expressed their concerns about the prevalence of these issues and their desire to contribute to the efforts aimed at eliminating them.

The programme was attended by Officials, PLVs, panel lawyers and students of the said institutions, and other participants.

J&K LSA felicitates Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14

A team of officers and officials of Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority led by Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority today felicitated Justice Tashi Rabstan for his appointment as the 37th Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, (Patron-in Chief of J&K Legal Services Authority) during a function held at Srinagar.

The Chief Justice acknowledged the unwavering efforts of the Legal Services Institutions in promoting access to justice

for all, especially the marginalized and underprivileged communities. He emphasised the requirement and importance of continued outreach activities of the Authority and raising awareness on legal rights and services available to the public.

The Chief Justice expressed his resolve and commitment towards ensuring that the judiciary and Legal Aid Institutions, work in unison to provide speedy and effective justice to the people of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

"Elevation of Justice Tashi Rabstan reflects in his profound legal exper-

tise and unwavering commitment towards delivering justice especially to the poor and marginalised sections of the society", said Amit Kumar. This prestigious appointment comes as a testament to the exceptional legal acumen and long-standing service rendered by Justice Tashi to the judiciary who on two previous occasions has also served as Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, he added. He said that Chief Justice has played a pivotal role in furthering the cause of justice across the Union Territories," asserted Amit Kumar.

DDC Reasi chairs meeting to review Employment Generation Schemes in the District

JNEWS SERVICE
REASI, OCTOBER 14

A review meeting under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan was convened in the Video Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess the implementation of employment generation schemes in Reasi District.

At the outset, the DDC took a detailed review of the implementation of self-employment-generating schemes being implemented in the District.

During the meeting, DDC stressed that all departments should focus on innovation and diversification in their respective fields. He emphasised on maximising the coverage of unemployed youth in the District under diverse self-employment generation schemes.



On the occasion, DDC took an extensive department-wise review of cases sanctioned under different schemes, including Mumkin, Tejaswini, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP), DIC, KVIB and other self-employment-oriented schemes.

He highlighted the importance of providing proper handholding and raising awareness among the youth to encourage

their participation in these schemes. Additionally, emphasis was placed on imparting training to locals, particularly on home stay management, to augment income generation opportunities.

ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, GM DIC Mohd Anwar Banday, Chief Agriculture Officer, DSHO, AD Handicraft Ujwal Sambyal, AD employment Annie Vaid and other concerned officers were present.

DC Reasi chairs DLCC meeting to review implementation of NTCP

JNEWS SERVICE
REASI, OCTOBER 14

A Meeting of District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) was held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan today at VC Hall of DC Office Complex which focused on discussing the implementation of the National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) in Reasi.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that Reasi is the only District to ban tobacco in Katra sub-division covering a radius of 8 km. DC further emphasized that we must ensure that our educational institutions are free from tobacco influence, and this begins with the implementation. He instructed authorities to ban selling of tobacco within a 100 meter radius of education institutions and asked them to issue a circular.



DC said that designated teams and authorities will challan offenders in DC Office, bus stand, health institution as tobacco use is a major public health concern that requires coordinated efforts from all sectors of society.

He also highlighted that unlicensed vendors contribute significantly to the accessibility of tobacco products, especially among youth.

He said that a robust strategy for vendor licensing is crucial. "We need to involve all stakeholders,

including law enforcement, health officials, and the community, to ensure compliance and reduce the availability of tobacco products" DC said.

He also stressed the need for regular enforcement drives and continuous awareness campaigns at all levels to educate the public about the dangers of tobacco use.

The meeting was attended by Dy. SP Neeraj Padyar, CMO Mohd Ashraf Kohli, BDO Arti, ALC, DIO and officials from various departments.

DC Poonch reviews management of Vidhyalas



JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, OCTOBER 14

A significant Vidyalaya Management Committee meeting took place under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kaundal.

The meeting focused on four primary areas: academic excellence, holistic devel-

opment of students, infra-structural issues and water supply issues. Principal Nitin Arora appraised about current status of school on above mentioned areas and steps to make these better for welfare of students

He also assured that the schools are committed to providing students with the best possible education

for conducive learning and overall welfare and development of students to take productive members of society.

DC Vikas Kundal directed SDM Surankote during the meeting to take prompt actions and directed the concerned officials to remove any hindrance in these areas.

Gandhi Memorial College, Srinagar organizes Orientation Programme for Fresh Batch

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14

Gandhi Memorial College, Srinagar, today organized an Orientation Programme for newly admitted first-semester students.

The event, held in the college auditorium, aimed to acquaint freshers with

the institution's academic environment and opportunities.

In his keynote address, the Principal, Prof. Aijaz Ahmad Hakak, emphasized the importance of intellectual curiosity and personal growth. He exhorted students to cultivate a spirit of inquiry

and dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to the realization of their cherished goals.

Prof. Hakak stressed the significance of a well-rounded education, advising students to actively participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, debates, and

DC Poonch conducts comprehensive review of child protection bodies



JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, OCTOBER 14

Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal today conducted a review of the working of child protection bodies in district Poonch. DC emphasised that the focus must be on preventive action for which vulnerable children at local level should be mapped ensuring timely interventions and timely implementation of various schemes for the welfare and safety of children

without fail.

Kundal emphasised on regularly conducting drives to ensure that no child labour takes place in Poonch and directed officials to take strict action against those employing children, especially those aged less than 14 years in unsafe circumstances.

The meeting was attended by Members of District Child Protection members Poonch, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Board members.

Spanish ambassador visits SPS museum



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14

Spanish ambassador, Juan Antonio, today visited SPS museum and appreciated the uniquely crafted diverse artefacts housed there.

Juan Antonio appreciated the varied artefacts saying that the museum is a huge repository of historical and cultural legacy of the region which has been reflected through varied powerful art forms. He described the whole collection as a rare exhibition of exceptional cultural heritage of the region which can fascinate everyone.

He assured that all

possibilities would be explored to further boost cultural cooperation among Spain and India in days to come. "2026 is going to be very important year for the culture of India and Spain in reciprocal ways," he added.

Advocating for further strengthening of cultural ties, he said that efforts would be made to propagate and promote culture of Kashmir in Spain.

Juan Antonio, while lauding fast growing tourism sector in Kashmir, said that there is ample scope for increasing the cooperation in tourism industry and share our experiences in rural tourism development.

ADGP Jammu reviews arrangements for Annual National Police Day function

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 14

Additional Inspector General of Police Jammu Zone Jammu Sh. Anand Jain-IPS, chaired a meeting of senior Police officers at Zonal Police Hqrs. Jammu this evening to discuss various arrangements for the National Police Day, National Police Day, popularly known as Police Commemoration Day. It is observed on 21st October every year in the memory of 10 Police personnel (CRPF) who laid down their lives while fighting the Chinese invasion at Hot Spring (Ladakh) during the year 1959.

The main function will be held at Police Martyrs Memorial Rail Head, Jammu followed by Nation-



al Police Day Parade at Gulshan Ground, Jammu. During the functions, rich tributes will be paid to all the martyrs of Police force who made the supreme sacrifice in line of duty for unity and integrity of country.

In addition, a blood donation camp will also be organized after the

culmination of the Commemoration Day Parade at Gulshan Ground, Jammu.

While briefing the officers, ADGP Jammu Zone directed them to put in their best efforts to ensure adequate logistic /security arrangements at the venues for the smooth conduct of the National Police Day function. He directed

the senior Police Officers present in the meeting to spread awareness among the general public regarding the importance of the Day. He also exhorted the participants to ensure participation of Police personnel as well as general Public in large numbers on the day and acknowledge the sacrifices made by the

martyrs.

The meeting was attended by Ms Sarah Rizvi IPS, DIG IRP Range Jammu, Ms Sargun Shukla IPS, Commandant, IRP 15th Bn., Commandant, SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu, SSP PCR Jammu, SSP Security, Jammu, Commandant, IRP 14th Bn. (Nodal Officer), Commandant, IRP 18th Bn (Nodal Officer), Staff Officer to DIG JKS Range Jammu, SSP Traffic City, Jammu, SSP APCR, Jammu, SSP Telecommunication, Jammu, Adl. SP PCR Jammu, SP City / South/Hqr/Rural Jammu, S.O to ADGP Jammu Zone, Dy.SP Crime Branch Jammu, Dy.SP DAR DPL, Jammu, IC Police G.O 'S Mess Jammu.

DC Rajouri reviews efforts against drug trafficking under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 14

In a determined effort to combat drug trafficking and implement the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, chaired a crucial meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre Committee in the Conference Hall, DC Office Rajouri. The meeting focused on multi-faceted strategies to curb the menace of drugs in the district through enhanced surveillance, awareness programs, and enforcement measures.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Drug Inspector to share a tehsil-wise list of all pharmaceutical shops operating within the district. In addition, he was tasked with providing a draft checklist of essential requirements for the opening and operation of pharmaceutical shops, which would be circulated to all Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADCs). ADCs shall conduct thorough physical verifications of these establishments within their jurisdictions and submit compliance reports. As part of the district-wide effort, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for random checks at key entry points to Rajouri,



ensuring that no illegal substances are smuggled into the district. He also highlighted the importance of extending these checks to remote areas, such as Khawas, to ensure a uniform enforcement of anti-drug policies. The Programme Officer, ICDS, was instructed to organize comprehensive awareness campaigns in collaboration with Supervisors and Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs), with a calendar of training programs to be issued to ensure widespread coverage of the anti-drug message. The Chief Education Officer was directed to conduct surprise inspections in and around high schools and higher secondary schools, particularly targeting street ven-

dors for possible involvement in drug peddling. Complaint boxes will be installed near educational institutions, and Parent-Teacher Meetings will be organized to engage families in the fight against drug abuse.

Law enforcement agencies, particularly the police, were instructed to intensify their efforts, with a focus on increasing seizures and detentions related to drug trafficking.

The meeting was attended by ADC Rajouri Rajiv Khajuria, Additional SP Bikram Kumar, DPO ICDS, ACD, ACR, SDM, CEO, DSWO, DIO, ARTO, ETO, and representatives from the Anti-Terrorism Force (ATF), Drug De-addiction Centre, and other district officers.

DDC Shopian visits NH- 444 sites

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 14

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today visited various areas of Shopian including Nowgam, Vehil, Awand, Dachpora, Shadpora and Habdipora and interacted with the people of these villages with regard to land acquisition process for NH-444.

The National Highway-444 is an alternate Highway to NH-44. The steps required for removing the bottlenecks and compensation for land of people of these areas coming under land acquisition process was also discussed on the occasion while interacting with the people of these villages.

DDC heard the people of these areas patiently who also put forth their



demands, including enhancement of land compensation and other issues of public importance. He assured for redressal of their issues within the fixed time frame.

He said that NH-444 has significant importance and sought the cooperation of the people in the fruitful execution of the vital project which will facilitate the improved connectivity for the local public.

He assured redressal of all genuine issues and said district administration shall remain at the forefront at taking measures to provide maximum benefits to the people.

The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ACR, Shopian, Shakoor Ahmed Dar; Tehsildar, Shopian and other revenue officers and officials.

Social Welfare Deptt Budgam organises series of Awareness programmes on Drug Abuse



JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, OCTOBER 14

Under the aegis of 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan', Department of Social Welfare Budgam organized a series of awareness programmes on drug abuse at various educational institutions to aware students about drug abuse and to save the society from drug menace. About hundreds of students and staff members participated in the awareness programmes.

Speaking on the occasion, speakers threw light about the menace of drugs, its sources, causes, consequences and role of every member of the society for its total eradication. The participating students were briefed to remain away from drugs and involve themselves in

sports activities as it is one of the preventive measures to save themselves from drug abuse.

Participants reiterated to fight against the menace of drugs and were also stressed to share the information related to illicit drug supply in their respective areas, so that appropriate action under law is taken against the drug peddlers/traffickers. Moreover, the students were briefed to share information with their peer groups for more awareness in the society.

At last the volunteers were provided with theme-based badges and jerseys to actively participate in the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, promoting a drug-free society with a sense of unity and responsibility.

Majid Khan lifts RSGC Handicap Challenge Cup

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14

In the just culminated Royal Spring Golf Course (RSGC) Handicap Challenge Cup, Majid Khan emerged as the champion.

RSGC Handicap Challenge Cup came to a close after an intense five days competition that witnessed outstanding victory of Majid Khan. His determination and skill have truly shone through! While Zubair H Zargar was the runner up.

The golf tournament saw an impressive lineup of talented golfers, and the competition was fierce. Majid Khan showed remarkable performance throughout the tournament showcasing his exceptional abilities and unwavering focus,

culminating in a well-deserved victory.

Ghalib Mohi ud Din, Secretary of RSGC congratulated the winner and said, "The hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship have been exemplary, and have made us all proud."

Kudos to all the opponents for putting up a formidable challenge and making this tournament exciting till the very end. Your sportsmanship and competitive spirit was truly commendable, adding to the excitement and prestige of the event, he added.

The tournament was played over five days on a knockout basis, with 30 players participating and a total of 39 matches. The final of the tournament was played on the 13th of October, 2024.

DPS Jammu students win gold medals in Pencak Silat Championship 2024

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 14

Students of Delhi Public School Jammu brought laurels to the school and their parents by winning gold medals in 9th J&K U.T Pencak Silat Championship 2024 organized by Jammu and Kashmir Pencak Silat Association held at Srinagar, J&K from 21-23 September, 2024. The details of the winners are as under Mahika Sharma (X-G) - Gold medal in 42-47 kg in junior category. Rigved (X-G) - Gold medal in 67-71 kg in junior category.

Raizel (VI-C) - Silver medal in 32-35 kg. in Pre Teen category.

Last date for IGNOU Admissions Today

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 14

On the request of the stakeholder across the country, the university has finally extended the last date for admission to its various programmes for the ongoing academic session in order to accommodate potential learners who were unable to complete their admission formalities within the initially announced timeline. Prospective students who wish to enroll for the ongoing academic session are encouraged to take advantage of this extended deadline. This additional time offers an opportunity for those who may have faced challenges or delays in completing their applications earlier.

Regional Director, Dr. A. H. Rizvi emphasized the University's commitment to providing accessible and flexible education opportunities to learners across the Kashmir Division including the UT of Ladakh.

Dr. Rizvi, said that this is the last opportunity for July 2024 admissions as the admission to all the academic programmes offered in Open Distance Learning or Online Learning mode for the July 2024 admission will conclude on 15th October 2024, except for Semester based and Certificate programmes whose admission has already closed.

For further inquiries or any assistance, prospective students are advised to contact the Regional Center Srinagar or visit the official website www.ignou.ac.in or rcsrinagar.ignou.ac.in.

JMC Commissioner to visit Akalpur on October 16

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 14

Jammu Municipal Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav will be visiting Akalpur, Sangrampur, Durga Chak and adjoining areas on 16th of October, 2024 (Wednesday) at 11:00 A.M.

The general public can call on JMC Grievance Helpline No. 18001807207 for site visit requests. JMC team will also inspect all ongoing works and capture public grievances during the visit.

Exempt Budget Schools From NOC Requirements: PSAJK President urges J&K Government

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 14

In a major step towards expanding educational opportunities in downtown area of Srinagar district, New Career Convent School (NCCS), Habba Kadal, proudly inaugurated its second branch in the heart of Shahre Khass, area of Fateh Kadal. The opening ceremony witnessed a prestigious gathering of key figures in the education sector and esteemed community leaders.

On this occasion, PSAJK President G.N. Var served as the Chief Guest and officially inaugurated the new school building, marking a significant step in expanding educational opportunities in this historic area of Srinagar. The event was further graced by Chairman of NCCS Rouf Malik, PSAJK Central Kashmir Head Majid Bhat, PSAJK District Srinagar President Bilal Ahmad, Chairman of Kashmir Society Farooq Renzu, Care Foundation President Dr. Mahjabeen

Nabi, President of Angeles Cultural Academy Tariq Ahmad Shera, PSAJK Srinagar District Executive Member Mir Parvaiz and President of Masjid Haqani Fateh Kadal Nisar Ahmad, Javeed Ahmad, Farooq Ahmad Members of Masjid Haqani among others.

PSAJK President G.N. Var has said that "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Rouf Malik Sahab and his family for opening the second branch of New Career Convent School in Fateh Kadal. Establishing a school in a densely populated area like Shahre Khass is not an easy task. This area is home to many families who are struggling financially, with many working as labourers, salesmen, and small business. They face immense challenges in providing education to their children.

New Career Convent School's administration has taken bold steps to ensure that these children receive modern, quality education. Schools like these, which have been serving communities since the 1990s, have produced a large number of professionals including doctors, engineers, officers, and Govt.servants. I urge the government to support these budget schools financially, as they cater to underprivileged families. My appeal to the Jammu and Kashmir government is to exempt these schools from the need for NOCs, similar to how government schools operate, and to reinstate the special grants and assistance that were available to such institutions in the past. To the school administration, I request you to maintain a high standard of education, despite the financial challenges. And to the community, I ask for your continued support in this endeavor, as these schools not only provide education but also employment opportunities locally." New Career Convent School Chairman Rouf Malik, while addressing



the audience, stated, that "I am deeply grateful to our students, parents, and the teaching and non-teaching staff for their unwavering support, which has made today's inauguration possible. Since the establishment of our school in 1997, our motto has been to provide quality education. We are proud of the brilliant students we have nurtured, many of whom have gone on to succeed in competitive exams like NEET and JEE, and contribute to society in various fields. I especially thank

the residents of Shahre Khass, Habba Kadal and Fateh Kadal for their continued trust and support. My appeal to parents is to ensure that their children attend school regularly for a brighter future."

Several prominent voices from the community praised the school's efforts

PSAJK Central Kashmir Head, Majid Bhat said that "I congratulate the school administration, especially Rouf Malik Sahab, for taking this bold step of launching another branch in the heart of Srinagar.

This is a significant contribution to the educational landscape of the area."

Nisar Ahmad, President of Masjidi Haqani Fateh Kadal: "It is a proud moment for the Fateh Kadal community to witness the inauguration of this new school branch. I wish them success in their educational journey."

Farooq Renzu, Chairman of Kashmir Society: "I extend my warmest congratulations to the school administration for their dedication to providing quality education in this historic area of Srinagar."

Dr. Mahjabeen Nabi, President of Care Foundation: "Education is the foundation of a progressive society, and I applaud the school for bringing this opportunity to the children of Fateh Kadal."

PSAJK District Srinagar President Bilal Ahmad: "This new branch is a testament to the commitment of New Career Convent School to ensure accessible education for all, especially in underprivileged areas."

Tariq Ahmad Shera, President of Angeles Cultural Academy: "The opening of this branch marks a significant step in the growth of education in downtown Srinagar, and I congratulate Rouf Malik Sahab for this achievement."

With the opening of its New Fateh Kadal branch, New Career Convent School is set to serve as a beacon of educational hope and empowerment for the community, promising a future of learning and progress for generations to come.

68 years of B R Ambedkar's conversion to Buddhism remembered at Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 14

Dr B R Ambedkar, the father & the architect of Indian Constitution took a life-altering decision on 14th Oct. 1956. The Dalit strongman decided to quit Hinduism and take up Buddhism, with his followers in Nagpur.

Today the followers of Ambedkar under the ages of Confederation of Dalit, OBC, Minoroty, Adivasi Organisations met at Prem Resort, Jammu and remembered Baba Sahib's bold step.

R K Kalsotra, State President, Confederation said the reason behind Ambedkar's thought was "threat to freedom" from the varna or caste system. Ambedkar opined that conversion was the only method for Dalits to denounce the caste system. He further



said that Ambedkar Sahib remarked "Religion is for man & not man for religion. For getting human treatment, convert for getting organised, Convert for becoming strong, Convert for securing equality, Convert for getting liberty".

Kalsotra further said that after 68 years of Baba Sahib's conversion still caste atrocities are not ending, his made constitution is under threat of changing, Article 12 to 35 contained in Part III of the Constitution which deal with Fundamental Rights are also weakening day by day. These are: Right to

equality, including equality before law, prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, and equality of opportunity in matters of employment. Confederation has called for National wide Maharally on 1st December 2024 at Ram Leela Maidan, New Delhi to Save Constitution, Save Democracy and Save Fundamental Rights.

Our main demands:- Caste census, There should be no interference in the Waqf Board, Ban on privatization and reservation in the higher

judiciary. Recruitment to vacant posts, land distribution, equal education, end of contracting system, religious freedom, reservation in projects run by government funds, guarantee of MSP to farmers, opposition to ST being deprived of water, forest and land, elections through ballot paper, issues of Jammu Kashmir will also be raised in the Maharally. All the participants remembered Baba Sahib, paid their tribute to him and assured to participate in coming rally of 1st Dec.2024 of Ramleela Maidan New Delhi.

Others who spoke were Ramesh Uttama, Shahid Saleem, S Kuldeep Singh Giani, Adv J A Kazmi, Dr Ramesh Kaith, S Harasis Kranti. Safer Ch, Ashu Peter Mattoo, Javeed Wattal, S Tejinder Singh, Dr Sameer Ch, Dr Jatinder, Rattan Bhagat and many others.

GLDM GDC Hiranagar completes Investigative Research Skills Workshop on Cultural Resource Mapping

JINNEWS SERVICE
HIRANAGAR, OCT 14

In a noteworthy academic and cultural initiative, GLDM Government Degree College (GDC), Hiranagar, has successfully concluded a 15-day Investigative Research Skills Workshop focused on "Cultural Resource Mapping of Hiranagar Block," in partnership with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Jammu Chapter.

This workshop was designed to equip students and faculty with essential investigative research techniques, emphasizing the importance of mapping the rich cultural resources of the region. Participants received practical training in identifying and documenting local heritage, including historical monuments, traditions, and community practices. Such mapping is vital for the conservation of both tangible and intangible cultural assets, ensuring that future generations can appreciate and protect the diverse heritage of Hiranagar. The collaboration with INTACH underscored the significance of cultural preservation and active community involvement. Throughout the workshop, participants explored a variety of topics that highlighted the cultural wealth of the Hiranagar Block. They learned advanced methodologies for locating and recording historical sites, delved into the architectural significance



of local monuments such as forts and temples, and investigated the customs and traditions of nearby communities. Additionally, they focused on documenting unique artisanal traditions, including handicrafts and handloom heritage, while also considering ecological factors that contribute to the region's cultural landscape. Culinary heritage was another focal point, with discussions on local dishes linked to specific events or seasons.

Under the leadership of Mr. S.M. Sahni, Convener of INTACH Jammu Chapter, the workshop aimed to equip participants with the necessary skills to document and preserve Hiranagar's rich cultural heritage. Dr. Pragya Khanna, Principal of GLDM GDC Hiranagar,

played a pivotal role in the program's success, with a dedicated team of faculty members, including Prof. Bindu Sharma, Prof. Rakesh Sharma, Prof. Bhavna Jamwal, Prof. Vijay Kumar, and Prof. Ganga Sharma, ensuring the event ran smoothly.

A significant aspect of the workshop was the active involvement of 35 students, who undertook fieldwork in designated areas of Hiranagar. After conducting thorough research, they prepared detailed reports that underwent a rigorous review process. The finalized reports, highlighting key cultural resources, will be submitted to INTACH to inform future conservation initiatives.

Participants also benefited from the insights of leading heritage experts,

including Dr. C.M. Seth (IFS Retd.), who shared his knowledge on environmental and heritage conservation, along with contributions from Mr. Kirpal Singh, Mr. A.K. Kapoor, Mr. Arvind Kotwal, Dr. Rohini (Assistant Director, Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Hiranagar), and Ms. Isha, a volunteer with INTACH. This event not only enhanced the research skills of the students but also fostered a deeper awareness of the importance of preserving local heritage, marking a vital step in community-driven conservation efforts. The initiative at GLDM GDC Hiranagar exemplifies a commitment to safeguarding the cultural fabric of the region, ensuring it thrives for generations to come.

Indian Army empowers Youth through Conduct of Athletic Meet at Mendhar Poonch

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, OCT 14

The Indian Army recently organized a remarkable athletic meet at hill ground in Mendhar, Poonch, aimed at empowering local youth and fostering a culture of sports in the Pir Panjal region. This event was not only a platform for showcasing athletic talent but also served to inspire the younger generation, encouraging



them to engage in physical activities and sports as a means of personal growth and community bonding. The athletic meet attracted over 100 participants, including a significant number of girls, reflecting the Indian Army's commitment to inclusivity

and gender empowerment in sports. The events included a range of competitions such as the 100m, 200m, 400m, and 800m races, along with field events like javelin throw, shot put, and long jump. This not only tested the physical capabilities of

the competitors but also celebrated local culture and heritage. The atmosphere was charged with enthusiasm, as competitors pushed their limits and cheered each other on, creating a sense of camaraderie and sportsmanship. This initiative is part of the broader Khelo India program, which aims to promote sports and physical education in schools and communities across the nation.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

It is Official: J&K...

Secretary to LG Manoj Sinha ji. He handed over a letter from the LG office inviting me to form the next government in J&K." J&K will now have an elected government for the first time after a decade. For Omar, the road ahead will be tough as he will be heading a UT not a State. He has already stated that the new cabinet will pass a resolution in its first meeting about restoration of Statehood and present the same to the Prime Minister of India.

Earlier, Omar had met LG Manoj Sinha on Friday and presented letters of support and also staked claim on government formation in J&K. He had told reporters that the oath ceremony would take a few days as the LG office had to send the documents to Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi and then to the Home Ministry. Earlier, yesterday late evening, President of India Draupadi Murmu issued a notification to end the President's rule in J&K paving way for the new government to take the reins of UT.

The recently concluded Assembly polls held after a decade saw a divided mandate—National Conference sweeping Kashmir with 42 seats while BJP dominating Jammu region by winning 29 seats. The polls saw the fall of Congress that won just six seats. PDP met the same fate by bagging only three seats. Er Rashid led AIP won and Peoples Conference led by Sajad Lone won one seat each. The polls also saw a surprising result in Doda Assembly seat where Aam Admi Party (AAP) candidate emerged victorious.

NC-Congress alliance...

been passed now to pave way for the government formation. "No government will prefer to see the powers being snatched from it. Snatching the powers is not a good decision," he said.

Moreover, he said that the alliance partners have taken it as a challenge to form the government with an aim to restore the rights and guarantees snatched from Jammu and Kashmir, adding that "we want to take oath in a state, but forming the government at this juncture is a beginning of new struggle and the main priority is to get the Statehood restored followed by securing land, jobs and other things."

"Eradicating the unemployment is a must. We need to create job opportunities for the youth with dignity," Karra said, adding that all the decisions taken during LG rule will be reviewed.

Reacting to NC Vice President Omar Abdullah's statements, Karra said that they need to work on the practical grounds, saying that "we can only work in the right direction when the statehood is restored. We need to use stairs to achieve the goals."

AAP runs failed...

failed governments in both Delhi and Punjab. What advice can he offer to Omar Abdullah on how to run Jammu and Kashmir? AAP candidates lost their security deposits in Haryana, and only one of their candidates won in Jammu and Kashmir," Chugh said, according to the Kashmir Indepth News Service (KINS).

Chugh further stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had fulfilled all the promises he made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"There is peace and development in J&K. Elections were conducted with a good turnout," he added. Chugh has been appointed as a central observer by the BJP.

Meanwhile, BJP J&K Chief Ravinder Raina said that the Leader of Opposition would be selected soon after holding meetings with party leaders and central observers.

"In the coming days, the BJP will hold meetings with leaders and elected members under central observers Prahald Joshi ji and Tarun Chugh ji. The future strategy of the party in Jammu and Kashmir will also be discussed," Raina told reporters.

He also congratulated all the MLAs, noting, "The BJP performed well in the election."

A total of 873 candidates contested across 90 assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, with 47 seats in Kashmir and 43 in the Jammu region.

The vote counting took place last Wednesday, with the National Conference securing 42 seats, followed by the BJP with 29, Congress with 6, JKDPDP with 3, and the remaining seats going to smaller parties and independents.

The J&K Assembly elections were held in three phases on September 18, 25, and October 1. Voter turnout in the first phase was 61.38%, dropping to 57.31% in the second phase before rising to 69.65% in the final phase. The overall voter turnout stood at 62.78%.

In the 2014 Assembly elections, the PDP secured 28 seats, the BJP won 25 (all in Jammu), followed by the NC with 15, and Congress with 12. (KINS)

Blaze wreaks havoc...

fire ravaged the, leaving many families without homes. He assured of every possible help to the villagers.

Moreover, at least ten shops and four residential houses were destroyed in a major fire incident in Dawar market in the border area of Gurez late last night, officials said.

An official told KNO that the fire started from a shop in Dawar market and quickly spread to other structures.

"Soon after the incident, the fire tender rushed to the spot to extinguish the fire. However, by the time it was brought under control, at least 10 shops and four residential houses were destroyed," he said.

Meanwhile, Army, in a post on X said: "In a swift response to twin fire incidents at Gujran and Dawar villages in Gurez, Chinar Warriors immediately responded with its Quick Reaction Teams alongwith fire fighting equipments to doze the raging fire and take control of the adverse situation. Prompt reaction of the Army and Fire Department saved precious lives and prevented loss to property, which was applauded by the local citizens". Member of Parliament Sheikh Rashid also visited the fire victims and donated one-month salary as assistance.

MP Rashid takes...

Rashid said that his top priority will be construction of tunnels for border areas of Gurez and Karnah. "I will meet union minister for roads and highways, Nitin Gadkari to seek approval for these projects," he said.

EAM Jaishankar...

Minister Narendra Modi to the SCO summit. Jaishankar's visit to Pakistan assumes significance as it

is seen as a significant decision on New Delhi's part.

In his recent address at an event, Jaishankar said, "Like with any neighbour, India would certainly like to have good relations with Pakistan." "But that cannot happen by overlooking cross-border terrorism and indulging in wishful thinking." The decision to send the senior minister is seen as a display of India's commitment to the SCO.

The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot in Pakistan in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack.

The relations further deteriorated after India announced the withdrawal of special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and the bifurcation of the state into two union territories on August 5, 2019.

Pakistan downgraded diplomatic ties with India after New Delhi abrogated Article 370.

India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment free of terror and hostility for such engagement.

Pakistan's then foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited India in May 2023 to attend an in-person meeting of the foreign ministers of SCO nations in Goa.

It was the first visit of a Pakistani foreign minister to India in almost 12 years.

Hunt against drugs...

In a joint operation, the Delhi Police and the Gujarat Police on Sunday seized 518 kilogram of cocaine worth Rs 5,000 crore at Ankleshwar in Gujarat.

With this, drugs worth Rs 13,000 crore were seized by the law enforcement agencies within a fortnight in Delhi and Gujarat.

SC rejects plea against...

He stated, "If they do something, if the High Court does not give you stay, you can move over here."

Before concluding, Singhvi requested that the order include a provision allowing the petitioner to return if there is a delay by the High Court in making a decision. He expressed concern that lack of decision could impact the situation.

Although nothing was recorded in the order, Justice Khanna mentioned that such a scenario should not occur. J&K will have an elected government for the first time in 10 years after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. In 90-member assembly, NC and Congress secured 48 seats, BJP won 29 seats, and PDP got three seats. AAP also won a seat in the recently concluded assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir.

ED attaches property...

Mohammad Amin Ganie, Suhail Ahmad Wani and Shabir Ahmad Dar in Srinagar and its nearby places under the provisions of PMLA, 2002.

It said that action has been taken in the infamous medical question paper leak case in J&K common entrance test 2012.

Congress in crisis as...

a proper share in the NC-led government, the morale of workers will continue to fall.

There are also reports that some Congress leaders are contemplating leaving the party to explore political opportunities elsewhere. "The lack of strategy and the inability to retain old seats have made many leaders rethink their future within the Congress," a source revealed.

The Congress's decline in Jammu is part of a decade-long trend. The party won 15 seats in the region in 2002, 13 in 2008, and only 5 in 2014. The current election marks a further collapse, with Congress securing just one seat in the region. Insiders attribute this decline to mismanagement, poor ticket distribution, and the absence of a coherent election strategy.

As the Congress struggles to regain its footing in the rapidly changing political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, its leaders are calling for a recalibration of strategy. However, with factionalism on the rise and the BJP continuing to make inroads in Jammu, the road to recovery appears steep.

BJP to hold meetings...

several senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, including former deputy chief minister Nirmal Singh, MP Jugal Kishore and working president of the party's Jammu and Kashmir unit Sat Paul Sharma, felicitated the MLAs by offering them chunari and flowers.

"In the coming days, the BJP will hold meetings of leaders and the elected members under central observers Prahald Joshi ji and Tarun Chughji. The future strategy of the party in Jammu and Kashmir will also be discussed," Raina told reporters. Replying to a question on the selection of the LoP, he said the process will be initiated soon. Talking to reporters, Chugh said "the constitutional process will be followed".

Raina said the Assembly polls have been held and the President's rule has been revoked in the Union Territory for the formation of a new government.

"The BJP performed well in the election. I congratulate all the MLAs," he added.

Thanking the people of the Union Territory, particularly those from the Jammu region, Raina said, "People voted and supported the BJP enthusiastically in this election, electing 29 MLAs. We secured nearly 26 per cent of the vote share. I thank people for their support."

Pointing out that this was the BJP's best poll performance in Jammu and Kashmir in terms of vote share as well as number of seats, he said. "I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, besides others whose blessings and campaigning helped this happen."

The BJP bagged 29 seats in the recently-concluded Assembly polls, its highest in Jammu and Kashmir. In 2014, the party had won 25 seats.

The saffron party's vote share was also the highest among all the parties at 25.5 per cent, followed by the National Conference (23.4 per cent), Congress (11.9 per cent) and People's Democratic Alliance (8.8 per cent).

The NC-Congress alliance emerged victorious in the polls.

Awareness lecture on career opportunities in the field of music held at GCW Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 14

In order to create awareness among the students, the Music Department of Government College for Women (GCW), Udhampur organized an awareness lecture on the topic

“Career Opportunities in the Field of Music” under the supervision of Head of the Music Department, Dr. Seema Sharma. The programme was organized under the guidance of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Nalini Pathania.

Resource Person of the programme, Mr. Yash Kumar, Assistant Professor in Music Department of Music GCW Udhampur. Dr. Seema Sharma encouraged the students to participate in such employment opportunities in the field of music. HoD Music said that to make a career in the field of music, you



will have to learn music with great dedication and only by acquiring knowledge of music, you can make a good career in the field of music.

Mr. Yash Kumar aware the students about the various job opportunities available in the field of music. He said that the field of music has opened up many career avenues. He informed that one can become a musician or a performance artist or even a music teacher. And while we all understand the importance of music education, the youth of today need to be made aware

of these options available in the field of music, he added.

Resource Person said that the options for a person who wishes to pursue a career in music are endless. Here are some broad categories in which one can pursue a career such as Musician/Performing Artist, Individual Singer/Band Member, Musical Instrument Player in any capacity including Brass, Percussion, Wind, Strings or Keyboard and Composer.

He said that there are many other fields in music in which one can make a

career, like music teacher in government and private school, band/choir/orchestra, private music instructor etc. Yash Kumar also added that another very popular area of career opportunity in the field of music is in the field of Radio/TV/Film -

you can be a Radio Jockey/Video Jockey/Disc Jockey, Music Editor, Music Director, Audio Producer apart from Music Therapist, Lyricist/Composer, Music Critic and Music Journalist etc.

The proceedings of the programme were initiated by Youshika Kumari a student of Semester 5th.

At the end the formal vote of thanks was given by Dr. Shalu Jasrotia Assistant Professor of music while Ms. Anita Sharma, Karunra Majotra and large number students were also present on the occasion.

NSS SMVDU donates 300 plant saplings to Govt. High School, Sirah village

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 14

The National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers of SMVDU University donated 300 plant saplings under the aegis of “Ek Ped Maa ke Naam” to Government High School, Sirah students. Each student was given 2 saplings to be planted at their home. The event aimed to educate students about the importance of trees and their role in keeping environment safe and healthy. Zonal education officer was also present during the event and appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers. Furthermore, the volunteers conducted a session on personal hygiene, emphasizing the importance of maintaining cleanliness for overall health and well-being.

KU VC visits North Campus; inaugurates research lab, girls’ hostel

Reviews courses, amenities available for students

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA/SRINAGAR, OCT 14

To interact with the newly enrolled students of the North Campus, University of Kashmir (KU), Delina, Baramulla and to focus on the amenities and facilities available to them, the Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan, Monday visited the campus and reviewed the services and programmes being offered to the student community.

During her visit, Prof Khan inaugurated a research lab at the Department of Botany and also interacted with the faculty and coordinators of various departments discussing ways to enhance the quality of education and address any challenges faced by the faculty and students.

She urged the students to work in a team for making the campus green, clean and conducive for a vibrant and stimulated research environment.

She also inaugurated the Girls’ Hostel, North Campus, Lower Delina marking her maiden visit to the hostel where she took stock of the amenities available to the residents.

On the occasion, Prof Nilofer Khan said: “The university is committed to providing a conducive learning environment that encourages both academic excellence and holistic development. The new research lab will open up more avenues for innova-



tive research, particularly in areas that can have a significant impact on society.”

She assured to develop more infrastructure in order to suffice the needs of the increased admissions in various newly introduced courses in Botany, Computer Science and Engineering.

“Make the most of the opportunities available and the administration will continue to support and enhance the facilities across all the satellite campuses,” she reiterated.

KU Registrar, Prof Naseer Iqbal, emphasised the importance of ongoing upgrades to the campus infrastructure while suggesting to execute the construction of fabricated structures for Engineering, Management Studies, English and Computer Sciences departments.

“The North Campus has consistently demonstrated growth and we remain committed to furthering this trajectory,” he said, while advising students to stay in the campus hostel

in order to save their daily commutation time.

He also stressed the importance of student feedback in guiding KU’s developmental plans.

Director, North Campus, Dr Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad, highlighted the role of the new research lab in encouraging a culture of curiosity and innovation among students.

“The Vice Chancellor’s visit is an encouraging gesture for both the faculty and the students, reaffirming KU’s support for academic initiatives and infrastructure development at the North Campus,” he said adding that the Vice Chancellor’s visit, especially to the girls’ hostel, underscores the varsity’s focus on ensuring student welfare.

The visit was marked by a series of activities, including an event on drug de-addiction. The event also featured a prize distribution ceremony for a quiz competition held under the “Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan”.

Induction Day Ceremony held at ASCOMS

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 14

The Induction Ceremony of 1st Prof. MBBS students (Batch 2024) of ASCOMS was held in the College auditorium on 14th October 2024. The ceremony was attended by 1st Prof Students, their parents, management, faculty members and other staff members of the institution. Dr. Gautam Mengi, Joint Secretary, Governing Body, ASCOMS was the Chief Guest on the occasion and Sh. Rakesh Raman Ji, Member Trustee, Governing Body, was the Guest of Honour on this occasion. Dr. Rajesh K Gupta, Prof. & Head Deptt. of Orthopaedics and Medical Education Unit, Coordinator gave a brief outlay of this Induction Ceremony and apprised the students about new curriculum. He also laid stress that the students should be regular in their academic activities and



not short fall in their attendance. The activity was attended by Dr. Pavan Malhotra, Director Principal, ASCOMS & Hospital, Dr. K.S. Mehta, Prof & HOD, Surgery, Dr. R. K. Gupta, Prof & HOD Paediatrics and Dr. Geetika Gupta, Prof & HOD Physiology, Dr. V.J. Churungoo, HOD Biochemistry, Dr. R.K. Khajuria, Prof & HOD, Community Medicine and Dr. Bella Mahajan, Prof & HOD Microbiology among others. Dr. Gautam Mengi, Chief Guest, on the occasion, highlighted

the teachings and vision of Bagwan Acharya Shri Chander Ji Udasin towards service of mankind and gave a brief history of Bagwan Ji’s life. He also lauded the efforts of founder President Mahant Shri Krishan Das Ji Udasin in establishing this institution. He also highlighted the efforts of Puja Chander Swami Ji Udasin who left no stone unturned in establishing this Institution in Jammu region. He also appreciated the efforts of Shri Dharam Vir Batra Ji in establishment of

this Institution. He lauded the contribution of His Holiness, Swami Prem Vivekanand Ji for upliftment of this institution to its present status.

Dr. Ravinder K Gupta, presented a detailed presentation regarding various academic, sports and cultural activities conducted by the Institution in the past and recent months. He encouraged and advised the students to actively participate in such type of activities which will be conducted in future.

Dr. Pavan Malhotra, Director Principal addressed the gathering with his inspirational words. He stressed the students to maintain decorum of this noble profession and study with zeal and honesty. He specially advised new entrants to shun away from both mental and physical addiction. He also advised the students to make best utilization of the time balancing between the academic and extra academic activities.

Dr. Zeenat Akhter, HOD Deptt. of Anatomy delivered the “Charak Shapath” in English and Dr. Navneet Kour, Assistant Professor, Physiology Department delivered oath in Hindi, which was sworn in by the 1st Prof. students. All the proceedings were conducted by Ms. Rishu, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anatomy. This activity was organized by the Department of Medical Education.

Indian Army empowering Women through Tailoring Course at Thanamandi Poonch



JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, OCT 14

The Indian Army has taken a significant step toward empowering women in these communities. The response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive, with many local women expressing gratitude for the Indian Army’s involvement. They see the course as a vital opportunity to gain independence and financial stability. As one participant noted, acquiring these skills could be transformative, allowing them to create their own businesses or secure employment in the tailoring sector. Local leaders have also welcomed this initiative, emphasizing its potential to contribute to the region’s overall development. The tailor-

ing course is part of the Indian Army’s larger strategy to foster peace and prosperity in Poonch, a region that has faced numerous challenges in the past. By investing in education and skill development, the Indian Army hopes to strengthen the community and improve the quality of life for its residents. This initiative highlights the critical importance of women’s empowerment in rural areas, where traditional gender roles often limit economic participation. By equipping women with practical skills, the Indian Army not only uplifts individuals but also contributes to the social and economic development of the entire community.

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General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of Army Staff embarks on a visit to Japan

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), departed on a visit to Japan from 14th to 17th October 2024, marking a significant step in bolstering the defence cooperation between India and Japan. On 14th October 2024, General Upendra Dwivedi will interact with Shri Sibi George, Indian Ambassador to Japan and would thereafter engage in discussion on India-Japan relations at the Embassy of India, Tokyo.

On 15th October 2024, the COAS will engage in dialogues with the senior military leadership of Japan at the MoD in Ichigaya. The meetings are planned with Gen Yoshida Yoshihide, Chief of Staff, Joint Self Defence Force; Gen Morishita Yasunori, Chief of Staff, Japan Ground Self Defence Force (JGSDF); Mr Ishikawa Takeshi, Commissioner of Acquisition, Technology and Logistic Agency (ATLA). The discussions will be aimed at fostering stronger military cooperation between India and Japan. General

Upendra Dwivedi will also pay homage at the Memorial at MoD, Ichigaya and will be given a Guard of Honour by the JGSDF. The itinerary also includes an interaction with senior hierarchy of JGSDF and a visit to the National Institute of Defence Studies.

On 16th October 2024, General Upendra Dwivedi, the COAS, accompanied by Gen MORISHITA Yasunori, Chief of Staff, Japan Ground Self Defence Force, will visit Fuji School, wherein he will engage in a conversation with Lt Gen Kodama Yasuyuki, Commanding Gen of Fuji School. The COAS will be given a briefing at the School and he will also witness an Equipment and Facility Display.

On 17th October 2024, the COAS will visit Hiroshima, wherein he will lay a wreath at Hiroshima Peace Park and pay floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi’s Statue at the Peace Park. The visit by General Upendra Dwivedi aims at strengthening military cooperation between India and Japan. General

IUST observes int’l day for Disaster Risk Reduction



JI NEWS SERVICE
AWANTIPORA, OCT 14

To mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) held a day-long workshop on Monday. The workshop was organised by Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction, IUST, and sponsored by Department of Disaster Management Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event titled ‘Empowering the Next Generation for a Resilient Future’ featured inaugural, poster and technical sessions. The inaugural session started with a screening of a short film on Disaster Management produced by Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC) highlighting disaster risks and preparedness.

In his presidential address, Prof. Shakil A Romshoo, Vice Chancellor IUST, emphasized on the disaster vulnerabilities and the need to devise

mitigation strategies and integration thereof in course curricula from School level onwards. He reaffirmed IUST’s commitment in knowledge generation, dissemination and contribution to policy formulations.

President, Nepal Centre for Disaster Management, Prof Bishal Nath Upreti who was the chief guest on the occasion, shared a four-pronged strategy to mitigate disaster risk. “These include having a clear understanding of the disasters, improving governance, investing in disaster preparedness and enhancing a response mechanism.” He added that every year, tens of thousands of people die because of cyclones.

“Disasters are not going to stop, but we need to work on our disaster preparedness,” he said.

Guest of honour and Under Secretary, DMRRR, Government of J&K, Snober Jameel, said, there is a need to generate awareness among youth to build a resilient future and help them be prepared to fight any disaster.

While lauding the IUST for organising the workshop, she said, this is a platform for all of us to “share our knowledge and learn from the experts.”

Prof Shakeel Ahmed Visiting Professor IUST, said that while it is not possible to completely eliminate disasters, “we can always minimise the risk by building skills for disaster management.” Earlier, welcoming the guests, Dr Irfan Maqbool Bhat, said the workshop should help create knowledge that shall ensure a safer future for the people of J&K. The proceedings of the inaugural session were conducted by Dr Heeba Din, Assistant Professor, DJMC.

Later, a posted presentation session was held, which was followed by two technical sessions on earthquake hazards and GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood) hazards, where leading experts from J&K and other parts of India shared their valuable insights on the strategies and tools that could be used to ensure a disaster resilient future.

EDITORIAL

Revocation of President's Rule in Jammu & Kashmir – A Step Towards Normalcy

The revocation of President's Rule in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) marks a significant turning point in the region's political landscape and is emblematic of a broader push towards normalcy after years of turmoil. With the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, J&K was stripped of its special status, split into two Union Territories—Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh—and placed under direct central rule. President's Rule, which had been in place since June 2018, further extended this direct governance from New Delhi, casting a long shadow on local governance and democratic processes. As we move toward restoring electoral democracy, this change signals a cautious optimism but also raises critical questions about the path forward for the region.

The revocation of President's Rule is not just a technical shift in governance; it is a political and symbolic step aimed at restoring normalcy in J&K after a prolonged period of uncertainty. For over five years, the region has been under either Governor's or President's Rule, during which time local democratic institutions were suspended. The lack of an elected government has been a major grievance for the people of J&K, and this revocation signals that the central government may be preparing to hold long-delayed legislative elections, thus reinstating the state assembly and re-establishing local governance.

This development is significant not only for restoring the democratic process but also for re-engaging the political leadership in the region. Parties like the National Conference (NC), People's Democratic Party (PDP), and others had largely been sidelined post-2019. With elections on the horizon, there is hope for reintegrating these regional voices into the mainstream political discourse. However, whether the political environment will be conducive to fair and transparent elections remains to be seen.

J&K has been grappling with militancy, a volatile security situation, and cross-border tensions for decades, and these issues continue to persist. The imposition of President's Rule allowed the central government to directly manage security operations, clamp down on insurgency, and introduce various developmental initiatives. While these measures have brought a semblance of stability, the underlying tensions in the region, especially in the Kashmir Valley, are far from resolved.

Security concerns will continue to play a major role in the run-up to any elections. Though militancy levels have reportedly decreased, it is imperative that the central and state apparatus ensure that peace is maintained for political activities to flourish. Trust-building between the state and its people must be prioritized to prevent any resurgence of violence or unrest, which has historically disrupted electoral processes in the region.

One of the primary justifications offered by the central government for the abrogation of Article 370 and the imposition of President's Rule was the promise of accelerated economic development. The region's economy, largely reliant on agriculture, tourism, and handicrafts, has faced significant challenges in the aftermath of the political changes. Frequent lockdowns, both security-related and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have hampered economic recovery.

As the region moves toward democratic governance, the focus must shift to addressing the socio-economic aspirations of its people. Infrastructure projects, improved connectivity, employment generation, and investment in key sectors like education and healthcare should form the cornerstone of any future state government's agenda. The central government has already introduced various schemes, but local leadership with a nuanced understanding of the region's needs can better prioritize and implement these initiatives.

The revocation of President's Rule offers a potential turning point, but it must be accompanied by efforts to rebuild trust between the state's population and the central government. Since the abrogation of Article 370, there has been a sense of political alienation among a significant section of the population, particularly in the Kashmir Valley. Addressing this alienation requires not only holding elections but also ensuring that governance is inclusive, participatory, and respectful of the unique cultural and political identities of the people of J&K.

Moreover, the central government must be cautious in managing the political and social transition. Any perception of electoral manipulation or heavy-handedness could reignite tensions. It will also be critical to foster dialogue between the central government and the regional political parties, many of whom still view the abrogation of Article 370 as a betrayal. Reconciliation and constructive engagement should be prioritized over confrontation.

The revocation of President's Rule in J&K opens a new chapter in the region's tumultuous history. While challenges remain—security concerns, political alienation, and economic recovery—this is an opportunity for both the central and future state governments to steer the region towards lasting peace and prosperity. The restoration of democratic governance is a positive step, but it must be accompanied by genuine efforts to address the aspirations and grievances of the people.

As J&K moves forward, the ultimate goal should be to create an environment where political participation is encouraged, economic development is inclusive, and the people of the region feel empowered to shape their own future. This requires careful handling, patience, and a commitment to upholding the democratic values that form the foundation of our republic. Only then can J&K truly embark on a path of sustainable peace and progress.

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Facing a steep decline in electoral performance, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), under the leadership of Mayawati, is now pivoting with a new strategy aimed at regaining its lost political ground. The once-formidable party, which made significant strides in the late 1990s and early 2000s by mobilising Dalit and marginalised communities, has been on the back foot in recent elections. With an eye on the upcoming assembly by-elections and the 2027 general elections, the BSP has taken an important step by releasing a 59-page booklet, designed not only to recount its past achievements but also to chart a new course for the future. The release of this booklet is a key part of the BSP's revitalisation plan. It features several statements from Mayawati, emphasising her leadership and vision for the party's future. One of the key aspects of the booklet is Mayawati's self-identification as the "Iron Lady," a term that echoes the strong and uncompromising leadership style often associated with female leaders in global politics, such as former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

By using this title, Mayawati seeks to project an image of resilience, firmness and determination, drawing on her previous tenure as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, where she exercised considerable political influence. Mayawati's attempt to invoke historical symbolism is another notable feature of the booklet. She compares herself to Emperor Ashoka, an ancient Indian ruler known for his governance and promotion of social justice. The parallel is clear: like Ashoka, Mayawati aspires to usher in a new era of social welfare and justice for the marginalised sections of society, particularly Dalits. Through this comparison, she hopes to solidify her image as a leader capable of bringing about meaningful social change, positioning herself as a saviour of the oppressed and aligning her leadership with India's rich historical tradition of justice. The use of such symbolic language is not merely rhetorical; it is a calculated effort to energise the party's traditional voter base, which largely consists of Dalits, while also appealing to other communities. The invocation of Emperor Ashoka, a figure revered for his contributions to governance, inclusiveness and justice, allows Mayawati to appeal to a wider electorate that values strong leadership based on social equity and welfare.

By aligning her vision with that of Ashoka, she is reminding voters that her leadership stands for inclusiveness, fair governance and social justice—values that resonate deeply with her core constituency. One of the most significant components of Mayawati's new political strategy is a renewed focus on social engineering, an electoral strategy that

had previously yielded considerable success for the BSP. This approach, which played a crucial role in Mayawati's rise to power in 2007, involves forging electoral alliances across caste lines—specifically between Dalits and Brahmins. By uniting these groups, the BSP was able to create a winning formula that resulted in sweeping electoral victories in the mid-2000s.

The booklet highlights the party's intention to revive this strategy, indicating that the BSP aims to once again bring together a broad-based coalition to strengthen its political position. In the booklet, Mayawati makes a strong appeal to Brahmin voters, asserting that their economic and social upliftment can only be achieved under BSP rule. She takes the opportunity to criticise rival political parties, including the Samajwadi Party (SP), Congress, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), for neglecting the Brahmin community and failing to address their concerns. By making this overtone to Brahmins, Mayawati hopes to recreate the Brahmin-Dalit electoral coalition that had been so successful in the past, particularly in 2007, when this formula helped her ascend to the Chief Minister's office in Uttar Pradesh. This strategy signals that Mayawati is determined to reconstruct a broad-based support structure, aiming to gain a foothold among both upper and lower castes. The outreach to Brahmins is not an entirely new tactic for the BSP.

The alliance, once seen as a formidable force

capable of challenging the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, ultimately fell apart. In the booklet, Mayawati attributes the breakdown to a lack of communication from Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, who, according to her, stopped answering her calls. This communication breakdown, she claims, forced the BSP to withdraw from the alliance—a move she frames as one made out of self-respect. By bringing up the collapse of the alliance, Mayawati seeks to remind voters of her independence and self-reliance as a leader, further distinguishing herself from her political rivals.

Despite Mayawati's efforts to reposition the BSP, the party faces significant challenges. One of the primary obstacles is the erosion of its traditional vote bank. The BSP, which once commanded a substantial base among Dalit voters, has seen a significant portion of these votes shift toward the BJP in recent elections.

In a notable shift in strategy, Mayawati has announced that the BSP will contest the upcoming by-elections. Historically, the party has refrained from participating in by-polls, preferring to focus its resources on general elections. However, the recent electoral setbacks and the changing political landscape in Uttar Pradesh have prompted a reassessment of this approach. By contesting the by-elections, Mayawati hopes to reenergise the party's cadre and send a message to her supporters that the BSP is

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CDSCO digitised over 95pc regulatory processes to boost transparency: Nadda

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

In a bid to boost transparency of drugs and medical devices, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), has digitised over 95 per cent of its regulatory processes, said Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda on Monday.

Nadda was speaking at the inauguration of the 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA), hosted for the first time in India, by the CDSCO, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).

The event being held from October 14-18 has brought together regulatory authorities, policymakers, and health officials from over 194 countries.

"CDSCO has developed



robust systems for approving safe and efficacious drugs and medical devices in the country and for export to more than 200 countries in the world," Nadda said, adding that availability of quality medicine at affordable prices is at the core of the organisation.

The Union Minister also

stated that "more than 95 per cent of regulatory processes currently have been digitised at CDSCO, bringing transparency and increasing trust among stakeholders."

He informed that eight drug testing labs are operational while two more are in the pipeline.

"Eight mini-testing labs

are operational at different ports for quick testing and release of drugs and raw material being imported. In addition, 38 state drug regulator's testing labs are operational," Nadda said. The new regulatory surveillance mechanisms are testing over a hundred thousand samples annually, he added.

Further, the health minister noted that the medical device industry in India is also being regulated to be at par with the WHO-GMP guidelines.

He noted that during the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic, the country "emerged not only as a global leader in health resilience and innovation but also reaffirmed its role as the pharmacy of the world" -- supplying essential medicines, vaccines, and medical kits to more than 150 countries across the globe.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, also highlighted the importance of global cooperation in drug regulation, particularly in light of challenges such as antimicrobial resistance, the post-pandemic world, and the safe use of AI in healthcare.

\$15 bn Indian diagnostics market estimated to grow at 14 pc CAGR: White paper

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

Driven by increasing urbanisation, improved test penetration, and rising health awareness, the Indian diagnostics market, valued at \$15 billion in the last fiscal (FY24), is expected to grow at 14 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR), according to a report on Monday.

Tier 2 and beyond cities face significant challenges, with over 65 per cent of diagnostic labs concentrated in tier 1 and 2 cities, presenting vast opportunities for tech-driven solutions, according to a white paper by Praxis Global Alliance launched at the Assocham diagnostics conference in New Delhi.

The white paper examined key trends and tech-

nologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), Blockchain, smart labs, genetic testing, mHealth, telemedicine, mobile diagnostics, and smart wearables that has the potential to bridge the gap and ensure more equitable access to quality healthcare

According to the findings, tier 1 cities, which house 9 per cent of the population, contribute approximately 37 per cent to the GDP, while the majority of more than 540 urban centres are Tier 2 and Tier 3+ cities, with Tier 3+ cities projected to accommodate an additional 46 million people by 2030.

"With government initiatives, rising health awareness, and an increasing focus on preventive care, the role of diagnos-

tics in improving health outcomes has never been more critical," said Aryaman Tandon, Managing Partner, Healthcare at Praxis Global Alliance.

"Together, we can build a healthcare system that not only addresses current disparities but also sets the foundation for a healthier, more equitable future for all, particularly in the rapidly growing Tier 2 and 3+ cities," he added.

By aligning on a shared vision and committing to bold investments in technology and innovation, stakeholders can transform the diagnostics landscape in India, said the white paper. The experts at the event highlighted the transformative role technology can play in addressing the disparities in healthcare delivery.

AP: Apollo Hospitals launches lifesaving 24/7 chest pain clinics in Vizag

AGENCIES
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT 14

To combat the alarming rise in sudden cardiac deaths especially among younger individuals, Apollo Hospitals launched a revolutionary initiative, the 'Apollo Chest Pain Clinic, here on Monday. The Clinic was formally inaugurated by Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, the hospital said in a release. The services of Chest Pain Clinics will be accessible at Apollo Hospitals at conveniently located Ramnagar and Health city hospitals. Both the Chest Pain Clinics are equipped with cutting-edge technology and infrastructure to handle patients needing care on emergency basis.

Anyone even with an iota of symptoms of chest pain can rush to the nearest clinic.

This specialized clinics are designed to address chest pain concerns, whether real or perceived, and are accessible to anyone experiencing such

symptoms. It provides life-saving care for patients suffering from an actual heart attack, ensuring rapid and expert medical intervention.

The objective of this initiative is to make critical heart care accessible to all, without the fear of financial burden during precautionary visits.

This innovative initiative ensures that patients with chest pain can get a quick opinion on whether it is heart-related or not. If the pain is linked to a cardiac issue, they can receive immediate treatment. Remarkably, if the pain is not heart-related, Apollo will waive any charges for the consultation, addressing a key concern for many who hesitate to seek care due to uncertainty over the costs involved.

Expert specialists will be available round-the-clock to treat heart attack patients within the prescribed timelines. Every patient presenting with chest pain will be immediately evaluated by a dedicated emergency

team to determine whether the pain is cardiac-related or due to other causes.

The patient will undergo an ECG, Trop I and a cardiologist will diagnose the cause of the pain.

If the investigations indicate the pain to be a heart attack, appropriate treatment will be administered as per the standard guidelines and protocols.

The treatment may include medical management, Angio and Primary angioplasty as per the requirement.

Speaking on the occasion, Anitha extolled the services of doctors and medical community for coming to the rescue of patients in their hour of distress.

"These specialized clinics bring advanced cardiac care closer to the community, ensuring that no critical moment is wasted in the fight to save lives. These clinics are manned by qualified ER doctors with a 24/7 cardiologist coverage," said Y Subramaniam, Regional CEO, Apollo Hospitals.

ICMR, ZYDUS TIE UP FOR CLINICAL TRIAL TO COMBAT SICKLE CELL DISEASE

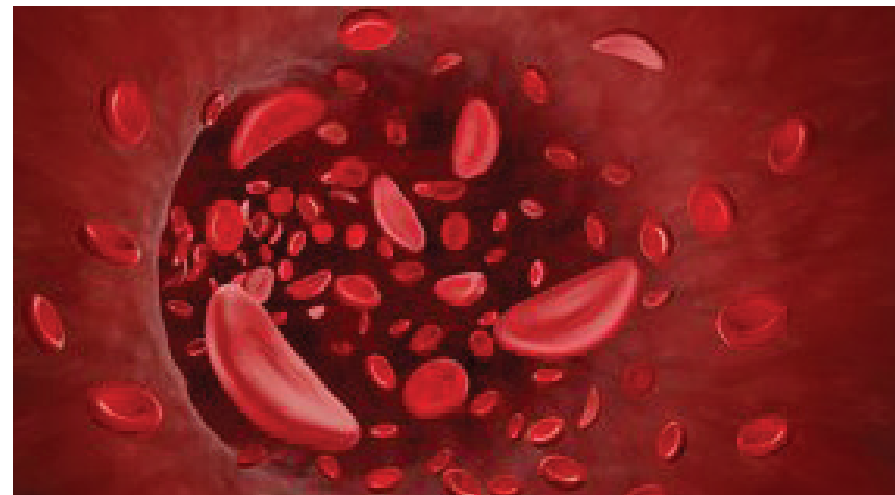
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Monday announced a partnership with domestic pharma giant Zydus Lifesciences to initiate Phase 2 clinical trials of the drug Desidustat in patients with sickle cell disease.

ICMR formalised a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Zydus for a Phase IIa, double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of Desidustat oral tablet against sickle cell disease -- a genetic blood disorder characterised by the presence of abnormal haemoglobin (Hb).

This comes after drug regulator DCGI recently granted permission to conduct a Phase IIa trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of Desidustat.

Desidustat is a hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF)-prolyl hydroxylase inhibitor (PHI) that stimulates the



production of erythropoietin (EPO), a hormone that boosts red blood cell production when oxygen levels are low in the blood.

"This collaboration reflects our commitment to advancing clinical research in India through strategic public-private partnerships. Desidustat was invented in India, and patients with sickle cell disease need therapies in addition to the currently available drug, hydroxy-

urea," said Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Secretary, the Department of Health Research and Director General, ICMR.

"Our vision is to ensure that India continues to lead in the development of innovative and affordable healthcare solutions," he added.

The proportion of patients with Hb response (defined as more than 1 g/dL increase in Hb from baseline) compared to placebo will be measured at

week 4 and week 8 as the primary end-point.

The trial will also evaluate key secondary endpoints including mean change in Hb, the proportion of patients requiring blood transfusions, the proportion of patients experiencing a vaso-occlusive crisis, and mean change in percentage of HbSS. HbSS is a severe form, affecting 65 per cent of people who have sickle cell.

"Public-private partnerships in the healthcare sector are essential to deliver novel drugs to achieve the goals of the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission. The initiation of this study reaffirms hope for the 20 million Sickle Cell affected patients in the country for a high potential novel treatment," said Pankaj Patel, Chairman of Zydus.

Desidustat was discovered at Zydus' R&D labs and recently approved for the treatment of anaemia in chronic kidney disease patients.

Sickle cell disease is a significant public health concern in India, particularly among certain tribal populations where the prevalence is higher.

According to the National Health Mission (NHM) estimates, there are approximately 20 million sickle cell-affected patients in the country. Every year, 50,000 children with sickle cell anaemia are estimated to be born in India.

Telangana Health Minister commits to onboard Sparsh Hospice under Aarogyasri scheme

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, OCT 14

Telangana Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha has pledged to onboard Sparsh Hospice under the Aarogyasri scheme, which will help sustain the Sparsh project and significantly enhance its impact.

The announcement was made during the World Hospice & Palliative Care Day (WHPCD) 2024 event held at Sparsh Hospice, Centre for Palliative Care, in Nanakramguda on Monday.

Speaking as the chief guest, the Minister

expressed deep admiration for the services provided by the palliative care team. "I feel like I am visiting a temple today. The dedication and compassion shown by the Sparsh team are truly touching. I will personally support efforts to ensure that this remarkable project remains sustainable," said Narasimha.

He also remarked that while people often visit pilgrimages in search of satisfaction, comfort, and hope, the true essence of service can be found in places like Sparsh Hospice.

The Minister reiterated his commitment to bringing Sparsh Hospice under the Aarogyasri scheme, which will provide essential financial support and help the project expand its reach.

In his welcome address, Dr M Subrahmanyam, Long-term Trustee of Sparsh Hospice, highlighted that the facility, which started with just 10 beds, has grown into an 82-bed center over the past 13 years.

"Sparsh Hospice has been meeting the palliative care and hospice needs of Telangana, providing

inpatient, home care, and outpatient services. This year, we have served over 11,000 beneficiaries," he said.

The theme for WHPCD 2024 is inspired by the World Health Assembly's resolution on palliative care, urging countries to integrate palliative care as part of comprehensive healthcare.

Sparsh Hospice continues to be a leading institution in this field, operating 6 home care vans, 3 pain clinics, and providing care to patients suffering from serious illnesses like cancer.

Legal services firm asks govt to probe Star Health data breach

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

Software Freedom Law Centre India (SFLCI), a Delhi-based legal services organisation, on Monday wrote to the national cyber agency Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) to initiate a probe into the data breach by Star Health and Allied Insurance, one of the largest health insurers in the country, and also to prevent such data leaks in the future.

Highly sensitive personal information including names, phone numbers, residences, tax information, ID copies, test results, and diagnoses of

Star Health customers was reportedly available on Telegram.

A hacker put the entire 7.24 TB data, allegedly belonging to its over 3.1 crore customers, for open sale on a website for \$150,000. Star has also received a ransom demand of \$68,000.

"It is highly problematic that sensitive medical information has been leaked, as it exposes customers to potential frauds by bad actors in the health sector such as predatory insurance agencies and laboratories," the SFLCI said.

"Medical information is confidential and must be afforded higher protection

and held to a higher standard of accountability.

A data breach of medical information must be addressed with urgency, as there is a high potential for misuse of medical data," added the firm in the letter to CERT-In, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

The SFLCI mentioned that the consequences of the data breach can be severe, and can range "from identity theft and impersonation to emotional distress with long-term fears of misuse of their personal information".

The organisation said that in light of several

recent large-scale data breaches, including Aadhaar and CoWIN, in the country "we urge CERT-in to investigate such data breaches immediately".

In October 2023, the Aadhaar data of around 81 crore citizens was allegedly leaked, and in July 2023, the alleged CoWIN data breach also resulted in the exposure of sensitive personal information.

Further, the firm called for notifying rules under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

Until this is done India will not have an effective "data protection regime to address such harms", the organisation said.

About 5000 runners attend UST Marathon creating awareness on healthier lifestyle

AGENCIES
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT 14

UST, a leading digital transformation solutions company, hosted its first-ever 'UST Trivandrum Marathon' with more than 5000 runners across the city taking part, making the inaugural event a resounding success.

The marathon, which was organized in collaboration with NEB Sports, also marked the 25th anniversary of UST's founding.

The Trivandrum Marathon, organised to promote awareness of a healthier lifestyle among the general public and UST employees, concluded at the UST campus.

The event included a full marathon and a half marathon for seasoned runners, a 10 km run for speedsters and newbies, a 5 km fun run, and a 3 km family run for recreational runners and walkers.

The marathon was flagged off by Krishna Sud-

heendra, Chief Executive Officer, UST, in the presence of Manu Gopinath and Alexander Varghese, Chief Operating Officers, Shilpa Menon, Trivandrum Center Head, Shefi Anwar, General Manager - Business Operations, from UST.

Among the participants, more than 500 were UST employees, while the remaining runners were members of the public who had registered for different categories of the event.

In addition to raising

awareness about healthy living and celebrating the company's 25th anniversary, the marathon also focused on supporting charitable causes and making a positive impact on the lives of those in need. The winners of the various race categories won a total cash prize of Rs 22 lakhs.

"It was an incredible event with a fantastic outcome—a huge thank you to everyone at UST, NEB Sports, and all the heroes who ran on Sunday! The

UST Trivandrum Marathon 2024 has truly set the stage for many more such events in the coming years. The participation in this inaugural event has been exceptionally encouraging, as runners from UST and the public enthusiastically embraced the importance of a healthy lifestyle, spreading the message from the moment they took off from the UST campus early that morning," said Alexander Varghese, Chief Operating Officer, UST.

Indian pharma market grows 5.1 pc in September

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

The Indian pharma market grew 5.1 per cent (year-on-year) in September, led by cardiac, dermal and anti-diabetic therapies, a report showed on Monday.

For the 12 months ending in September, the industry grew 7.7 per cent YoY, led by price growth and new launches. However, volume growth was moderate at 0.8 per cent (on-year) last month, according to the

report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

Acute therapies grew at a modest rate of 3 per cent YoY while chronic therapies grew at 8 per cent last month. The share of acute therapies segment in the overall Indian pharma market stood at 61.3 per cent for moving annual total (MAT), with YoY growth of 3 per cent. The chronic therapies segment (38.7 per cent of the total industry) grew 8 per cent, according to the report.

Indian pharma companies held a majority share of 84 per cent in market, while the remaining was held by multinational pharma companies.

According to the report, both MNCs and Indian companies registered single-digit growth (on-quarter) last month.

The industry's top brand, Augmentin, experienced a decline of 2 per cent YoY to Rs 730 million with a market share of 0.4 per cent last month.

India labels Canada's latest allegations as 'preposterous imputations', slams Trudeau's political agenda

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

Labelling them as "preposterous imputations", India on Monday slammed the Canadian government led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, asserting once again that it has "consciously provided" space to violent extremists and terrorists to harass, threaten and intimidate Indian diplomats and community leaders in Canada.

"We have received a diplomatic communication from Canada yesterday suggesting that the Indian High Commissioner and other diplomats are 'persons of interest' in a matter related to an investigation in that country. The Government of India strongly rejects these preposterous imputations and ascribes them to the political agenda of the Trudeau Government that is centered around vote bank politics," read a strongly-worded statement issued

by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday afternoon.

"Since Prime Minister Trudeau made certain allegations in September 2023, the Canadian Government has not shared a shred of evidence with the Government of India, despite many requests from our side. This latest step follows interactions that have again witnessed assertions without any facts. This leaves little doubt that on the pretext of an investigation, there is a deliberate strategy of smearing India for political gains," it added.

With Hindu temples in Canada being constantly vandalised with hateful graffiti by Khalistani goons in Canada and Hindu-Canadians also repeatedly targeted, India has time and again made it clear that any further deterioration in bilateral ties would eventually result in a big loss for Canada.

The MEA on Monday



also detailed Canadian PM Trudeau's "hostility to India" which it said has long been in evidence.

"In 2018, his visit to India, which was aimed at currying favour with a vote bank, rebounded to his discomfort. His Cabinet has included individuals who have openly associated with an extremist and separatist agenda regarding India. His naked interference in Indian internal politics in December 2020 showed how far he was willing to go in this regard. That his Government was dependent on a political party, whose leader openly espouses a separatist ideology vis-

vis India, only aggravated matters.

"Under criticism for turning a blind eye to foreign interference in Canadian politics, his Government has deliberately brought in India in an attempt to mitigate the damage. This latest development targeting Indian diplomats is now the next step in that direction. It is no coincidence that it takes place as Prime Minister Trudeau is to depose before a Commission on foreign interference. It also serves the anti-India separatist agenda that the Trudeau Government has constantly pandered to for narrow political gains," it

said.

New Delhi stated that the Trudeau Government has "consciously" provided space to violent extremists and terrorists to harass, threaten and intimidate Indian diplomats and community leaders in Canada. This has included death threats to them and to Indian leaders.

"All these activities have been justified in the name of freedom of speech. Some individuals who have entered Canada illegally have been fast-tracked for citizenship.

Multiple extradition requests from the Government of India in respect of terrorists and organized crime leaders living in Canada have been disregarded," the MEA statement mentioned.

It added that High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma is India's senior-most serving diplomat with a distinguished career spanning 36 years. Having been an Ambassa-

dor in Japan and Sudan, while also serving in Italy, Turkey, Vietnam and China, it slammed Ottawa for casting aspersions on him, terming them as "ludicrous" and deserve to be treated with contempt.

At the same time, the ministry also said that the Indian government has taken cognizance of the activities of the Canadian High Commission in India that serve the political agenda of the current regime.

"This led to the implementation of the principle of reciprocity in regard to diplomatic representation. India now reserves the right to take further steps in response to these latest efforts of the Canadian Government to concoct allegations against Indian diplomats," the MEA stated.

Last week, Trudeau had claimed that he had "brief exchange" with PM Modi in Laos on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit.

Tribal welfare scam: Court to give order on ex-Minister Nagendra's bail plea

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, OCT 14

The Special Court for MLAs/MPs in Bengaluru will give its order on the bail petition of jailed former Minister B. Nagendra on Monday in the Valmiki Tribal Welfare Board scam case.

The ED arrested Nagendra on July 12 in connection with the case after questioning him. Following allegations against him, Nagendra, who was Scheduled Tribes Welfare Minister, tendered his resignation on June 6.

Ahead of his arrest, the ED had carried out searches at several places, including at the premises of Nagendra, and ruling Congress MLA Basanagouda Daddal, who is Chairman of the state-run Corporation. The agency covered around 20 locations in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra as part of the probe in the case reg-

istered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The BJP has alleged CM Siddaramaiah's role in the scam since he had "agreed" to the misappropriation of Rs 89.6 crore from the government body. The BJP is claiming that it is a scam involving Rs 187 crore and as CM Siddaramaiah holds the finance portfolio, his involvement is evident.

The ED has named B. Nagendra, Congress MLA and former Minister for Scheduled Tribal Affairs as the primary accused and mastermind in the alleged scam in the Karnataka Maharishi Valmiki ST Development Corporation.

The Enforcement Directorate has filed a Prosecution Complaint (PC) or charge sheet before the Special Court for MPs/MLAs in Bengaluru in connection with the scam. The court has taken cognizance of the PC, the federal agency had stated.

'At forefront of serving society,' CM Sarma greets alliance partner AGP on foundation day

AGENCIES
GUWAHATI, OCT 14

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma greeted NDA ally and partner in the state government Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) on its 40th foundation day.

In an X post on Monday, CM Sarma wrote, "Today, on the 40th Foundation Day of Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), I extend my greetings and best wishes to all its leaders and workers. AGP traces its origins to fulfilling the aspirations of our people and has always been at the forefront of serving society. Our alliance has withstood the test of times and is bound by common values, principles and a shared vision for a prosperous and stronger Assam."

Following the momentous Assam Accord of 1985, the AGP was formally established at the Golaghat Convention, which took place in Golaghat from October 13 to 14, 1985.

Prafulla Kumar Mahan-



ta, Assam's youngest chief minister, was chosen as the party's leader during this convention.

The AGP formed governments twice: one in 1985 and another in 1996. AGP's popularity peaked in the late 1980s but fell in the 2000s.

Former Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta formed the Asom Gana Parishad (Progressive) after the party split in 2005. However, on October 14, 2008, he merged the party with the AGP in Golaghat.

AGP won 14 seats out of 126 in the 2016 Assam Legislative Assembly Elections, coming to power after a long gap.

It formed an alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the party

is a part of NDA.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the AGP won a Lok Sabha seat after a 20-year hiatus with senior leader Phani Bhusan Choudhury being elected from Barpeta in the Lower House of Parliament. The party contested in two parliamentary constituencies in the state, however, it lost polls in Dhubri to Congress candidate Rakibul Hussain.

Choudhury was a six-time MLA from the Bongaigaon Assembly segment. When AGP fielded him in the Barpeta Lok Sabha seat to fight parliamentary elections, supporters of Choudhury opposed the party's decision and urged Choudhury to remain the MLA of Bongaigaon.

Mumbai goes toll-free for LMVs; MVA wants more, Raj Thackeray rushes to grab credit

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, OCT 14

The Maharashtra Government's decision to abolish toll tax on light motor vehicles at all the five Mumbai Entry Points (MEPs) from Monday-Tuesday midnight (October 15) evoked sharp reactions from the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi, while Maharashtra Navnirman Sena's chief Raj Thackeray rushed to grab credit for the move.

The decision with far-reaching implications was taken by the state cabinet presided over by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, unshackling LMVs from paying tolls at the MEPs -- Dahisar, Mulund, Thane, Airoli and Vashi toll plazas.

However, the toll would continue to be levied as usual for different types of heavy motor vehicles (HMVs) including large tempos, buses, goods trucks carrying essentials and other bulky vehicles.

The move was welcomed with relief by the

masses, MNS jumped to claim credit while Congress Spokesperson Sachin Sawant, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) Spokesperson Clyde Crasto, Shiv Sena (UBT) Spokesperson Kishore Tiwari, social activist Prafulla Sarda plus others termed it as politically-motivated and demanded more for the people. A pleased Raj Thackeray complimented the MNS activists who had carried out a series of agitations, some violent, on the issue, seeking transparency in toll collections, where the money collected was actually going, etc.

"We demanded that all roads should be toll-free. We were criticised for vandalising the toll plazas, but extreme steps were necessary to draw the government's attention. At least, now the Mumbaiers shall be free of paying tolls and we are happy that our agitations were successful," said Raj Thackeray.

Implying political intentions, Sawant said that the decision came just days before the Election Commission of India will implement the poll code of conduct.

"The ruling MahaYuti is aware of the public angst and fears of losing power. So it is taking such 'feel-good' decisions. But why can't it be extended even for HMVs? Why continue paying the contractors?" said Sawant.

Tiwari termed the move as 'elitist' and felt it may prove to be another instance of robbing Peter to pay Paul, and ultimately only the commoners would suffer, even the poor quality of roads despite shelling out exorbitant tolls.

"They have dropped LMVs from toll, but after elections, the contractors may hike the toll for HMVs which would be passed on to the people. Indirectly, the ordinary folks would compensate the plaza contractors for their losses in LMVs toll. We demand that all roads in Maharashtra

should be made toll-free for all types of vehicles, to ensure real justice," a grim Tiwari said.

Crasto wondered whether the special treatment meted out to Mumbai was because the MahaYuti is rattled over its miserable poll prospects in the country's commercial capital and is desperately wooing the voters here.

"Why only the MEPs, what about the two sea bridges (Bandra Worli Sea Link & Mumbai Trans Harbour Link), the Mumbai Pune Expressway, the Mumbai Nagpur Expressway and other roads? If the government is sincere, it should have been a pan-Maharashtra decision," declared Crasto.

Pune activist Sarda said that as per the rules, if the plaza contractors suffer any loss in toll revenues, then they are automatically to extend their tenure by several months till they recover it.

"Now, the MEPs contractor will get another

extension to cover the losses arising out of LMVs being exempted from toll. Since this is election time, there may be other things involved so this entire business of tolls should be probed," demanded Sarda.

Sawant asked the MahaYuti government to come clear on how the contractors would compensate for the loss of toll on LMVs whether the HMVs would be now burdened with higher toll post-polls, and whether the masses would have to pay up with higher taxes later.

Raj Thackeray also sought an investigation into the toll collections for the past so many years and who made their fortunes in the game.

CM Shinde said that the move would benefit lakhs of motorists including many from the middle class, reduce traffic snarls, end delays at toll plazas, curb pollution and entail saving in fuel costs for the people.

BJP demands resignations of top Cong leaders accused of land grabbing and corruption

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi has accused several top Congress leaders, including former and current party presidents Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Mallikarjun Kharge, along with Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, and other ex-CMs such as Kamal Nath, Ashok Gehlot, and Bhupesh Baghel, of being involved in land-grabbing and corruption.

Addressing the media here on Monday, he alleged that these leaders have misused their power to usurp land meant for the poor. He cited various cases across states, such as the KIADB land allotment and MUDA scams in Karnataka, and other instances in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Trivedi stated that the return of land allotted to Kharge's family following allegations was not due to a moral awakening but to avoid further humiliation in legal proceedings.



He questioned why those returning the land were not resigning on moral grounds and demanded an FIR from the Karnataka government.

He mentioned, "In 2015, a land-grabbing case was filed against Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, which dates back to the land allotment in 1986. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is accused of the MUDA scam, and members of Kharge's family are linked to the KIADB land allotment scandal. Similarly, Kamal Nath, the former Congress Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, was implicated, while Ashok Gehlot, Rajasthan's former Chief Minister, has been named in the Bikaner land scam. Former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is also under scrutiny. Additional-

ly, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi face allegations in the National Herald case. This clearly means that whether it's the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, former National President, or current National President, the entire top leadership of the Congress appears deeply involved in land-grabbing activities."

"Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi should tell whether those who are returning the land should not resign on moral grounds. If it is accepted that a mistake has been made, then when will the Karnataka government file an FIR," he questioned.

He further criticised the silence of Congress and other opposition leaders, accusing them of collectively supporting corruption.

The BJP national spokes-

person stated that corruption is an inherent tendency, but now it appears that the position of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge is under threat. The decision to return the land allotted to the trust run by Kharge's family, following allegations of misuse, is clear evidence of land-grabbing through the abuse of power at the highest levels in Karnataka.

In response to a question on the Bahaich incident, he said that such incidents are part of a larger conspiracy to weaken India. "The people of the country should think about this," he said.

He also strongly criticised Sanjay Raut's statement on Baba Siddique's murder and reminded him how Balasaheb Thackeray had taken a tough stand against the underworld in the 90s but today he is standing with those who support the underworld. Raut had claimed that Lawrence Bishnoi, a gangster lodged in the state's Sabarmati jail, had assumed responsibility for the sensational crime.

The MEA statement read:

"We have received a diplomatic communication from Canada yesterday suggesting that the Indian High Commissioner and other diplomats are 'persons of interest' in a matter related to an investigation in that country. The Government of India strongly rejects these preposterous imputations and ascribes them to the political agenda of the Trudeau Government that is centered around vote bank politics."

"Since Prime Minister Trudeau made certain allegations in September 2023, the Canadian Government has not shared a shred of evidence with the Government of India, despite many requests from our side. This latest step follows interactions that have again witnessed assertions without any facts. This leaves little doubt that on the pretext of an investigation, there is a deliberate strategy of smearing India for political gains."

"Prime Minister Trudeau's hostility to India

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

India on Monday slammed Canada for suggesting that the Indian High Commissioner and other diplomats are "persons of interest" in the probe related to the killing of Canadian Sikh Khalistani activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar last year, and said that New Delhi "now reserves the right to take further steps" in response to the concocted allegations against Indian diplomats.

In a strongly worded statement, that comes two days after a brief meeting between Canadian PM Justin Trudeau and PM Modi in Vientiane on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit, India also strongly rejected "these preposterous imputations" and ascribed them to the "political agenda of the Trudeau Government that is centered around vote bank politics" - referring to its alliance with the pro-Khalistani New Democratic Party (NDP) and its leader Jagmeet Singh.

The statement also said that the Trudeau govern-

ment has "not shared a shred of evidence" with India so far on his allegations made in the Canadian parliament last year alleging an Indian hand in the killing of Nijjar.

The statement also said that the Trudeau government's allegation against India comes as PM Trudeau is set to depose before a Commission on foreign interference, and that it also serves the anti-India separatist agenda that the Trudeau Government has constantly pandered to for narrow political gains.

It said that High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma is India's senior most serving diplomat with a distinguished career spanning 36 years and the aspersions cast on him by the Government of Canada are ludicrous and deserve to be treated with contempt.

Meanwhile, according to Canadian news outlets, members of PM Trudeau's own caucus have begun a new effort to persuade him to step down rather than lead the Liberal Party into the next election.

Prime Minister Trudeau's hostility to India

has long been in evidence.

In 2018, his visit to India, which was aimed at currying favour with a vote bank, rebounded to his discomfort. His Cabinet has included individuals who have openly associated with an extremist and separatist agenda regarding India. His naked interference in Indian internal politics in December 2020 showed how far he was willing to go in this regard. That his Government was dependent on a political party, whose leader openly espouses a separatist ideology vis-à-vis India, only aggravated matters.

"Under criticism for turning a blind eye to foreign interference in Canadian politics, his Government has deliberately brought in India in an attempt to mitigate the damage. This latest development targeting Indian diplomats is now the next step in that direction.

"It is no coincidence that it takes place as Prime Minister Trudeau is to depose before a Commission on foreign interference.

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"It is no coincidence that it takes place as Prime Minister Trudeau is to depose before a Commission on foreign interference.

'Indian community in Algeria taking forward India's interests and soft power': President Murmu

AGENCIES
ALGIERS (ALGERIA), OCT 14

President Droupadi Murmu, during her historic visit to Algeria on Sunday, highlighted that the Indian community in Algeria was a bridge taking forward India's interests and soft power.

Speaking at the Indian Community Reception in Algiers, she emphasised that despite geographical distance, the two nations have maintained a close bond since Algeria's independence.

She also highlighted the deep-rooted and growing political ties between India and Algeria.

During her address, President Murmu lauded the Indian community for its role in supporting India's growth.

"With the collective efforts of 1.4 billion Indians, we embark on a new journey of hope and aspirations. While India is moving ahead at a fast and rapid pace, the goodwill of the Indian community both in Algeria and abroad cannot be over-emphasised," President Murmu said.

She also added that the Indian government and the Indian society have always valued and appreciated the contribution of the Indian community in enhancing India's posi-

tion, prestige and standing abroad.

"The hardworking Indian community working in various fields in Algeria are true ambassadors of India. Each one of you carries within you the values and culture of our ancient land. Whenever you meet an Algerian person, you introduce him to the spirit of India," the President said.

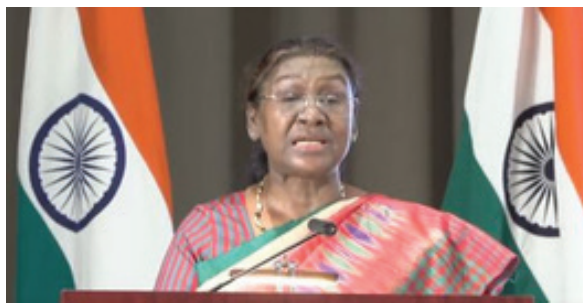
"When Algeria became independent in 1962, India was there to support Algeria and we immediately established political relations. Since then, political relations have grown manifold.

My visit has special significance in this context. Despite the geographical distance, we have always had a close bond of friendship," she said during her address.

She further said, "Our political leaders leaders have always had good relations with Algerian leaders."

President Murmu arrived in Algeria on the first leg of her three-nation visit on Sunday.

She was accorded a warm ceremonial welcome. This is the first visit by an Indian President to Algeria. At the airport, the President was received by President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of Algeria, as a special gesture.



Other members of the Cabinet were also present. "Today, India is playing an important role in global development. With a consistent annual growth of eight per cent, India is one of the fastest-growing major economies.

There has also been a significant reduction in the number of people living below the poverty line. It is a matter of pride that our country has become the fifth-largest economy in the world," the President added.

Indian Ambassador to Algeria, Swati Kulkarni, also addressed the Indian community, underscoring the historic bond between the two countries.

"It is a very special day in India-Algeria relations. Though geographically distant, India and Algeria are historically close.

India supported the Algerian liberation movement against colonialism since its inception. Over the years, mutual trust and shared interests have

strengthened this beautiful partnership," she said.

She also stressed the significance of President Murmu's visit, saying, "Today, madam, your visit will reiterate our commitment to a vibrant present and a better tomorrow. Much of what our countries have achieved so far would not have been possible without the contributions made by the Indian community and by our Algerian counterparts. Though small in number, our community members are dynamic, diligent and law-abiding."

President Murmu is on a three-nation tour of Africa, visiting Algeria, Mauritania, and Malawi from October 13 to 19, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Earlier on Sunday, President Murmu departed for her official three-nation tour.

"Deepening India-Africa special ties. President Droupadi Murmu

will plant a sapling from India to mark the opening of the India Centre at the Hamma Botanical Garden.

In the second leg of her tour, President Murmu will arrive in Mauritania on October 16. This is the first visit by an Indian leader of her stature since Mauritania's independence in 1960.

She will hold a tete-a-tete with Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani, followed by the signing of four Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) related to culture, cooperation between foreign office institutions, foreign office consultations, and visa waiver agreements for diplomatic and official passport holders.

She will also address the Indian community in Mauritania.

On October 17, President Murmu will travel to Malawi at the invitation of President Lazarus Chakwera. There, she will hold a tete-a-tete with the Malawian President, participate in a business event, and meet with the Indian diaspora.

Three MoUs on youth affairs, sports, and cultural exchange will be signed between India and Malawi.

President Murmu will conclude her tour and depart for India from Malawi on October 19.

As part of the event, she

Iran warns US troops 'at risk' over missile defence deployment to Israel



AGENCIES
TEHRAN, OCT 14

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi has warned that the US would be endangering its troops by deploying them to Israel to operate American missile defence systems.

Araghchi's remarks on Sunday on social media followed reports that Washington had decided to send its Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system to Israel, a move requiring US personnel to manage the system. The Minister accused the US of providing "unprecedented levels of military aid" to Israel, sharing figures showing US military assistance to Israel reaching \$17.9 billion in 2024, marking a record high, Xinhua news agency reported.

"The US has been supplying Israel with record levels of arms," Araghchi said.

Iran's Foreign Ministry did not respond to a request for comment over Araghchi's remarks,

which were carried by Iranian state media.

Israel is widely believed to be planning to attack Iran over its missile barrage on Israel earlier this month, its second direct attack on Israel during the ongoing Israel-Hamas war that's widened to Lebanon and involved other Iranian-backed militant groups in the region.

The THAAD is a defensive system that shoots down incoming ballistic missiles, like those fired by Iran in its last attack.

He also highlighted Iran's efforts to prevent a broader regional conflict, adding, "We have no red lines when it comes to defending our people and our interests."

The Pentagon confirmed on Friday that it would deploy the THAAD batteries to Israel to enhance its missile defence capabilities, following Iranian missile attacks.

On October 1, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) fired nearly 180 missiles at Israeli targets.

Iraq seeks ceasefire, prevents conflict expansion: PM

AGENCIES
BAGHDAD, OCT 14

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani has said that Iraq works to seek a ceasefire and prevent the expansion of the conflict in the Middle East.

Al-Sudani made the remarks during his meeting with visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi and his accompanying delegation, according to a statement issued by al-Sudani's media office on Sunday.

Araghchi arrived in Baghdad earlier on Sunday for a brief official visit to discuss regional security developments as part of his regional tour, Xinhua news agency reported.

In the statement, al-Sudani stressed that Iraq is making joint efforts with international partners and friends, particularly Euro-



pean Union countries, to reach a ceasefire.

Al-Sudani emphasised that the Iraqi government's current priorities regarding regional issues include "stopping the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip and Lebanon and preventing Israel from expanding the ongoing conflict".

He noted that Iraq's efforts to prevent the spread of the conflict ultimately serve Iraq's national security and the entire region's stability.

For his part, Araghchi said that his visit aims to

enhance coordination and consultation on the regional situation, confirming that Iran supports Iraq's endeavours to prevent the regional conflict from escalating.

Araghchi also met with Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid, who said the continuation of the conflict in Gaza and Lebanon threatens security, stability, and peace in the region and the world at large, highlighting the need to resolve crises through diplomatic means, according to a statement issued by the Iraqi Presidency.

Israel vowed to force Hezbollah out of Lebanon

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM, OCT 14

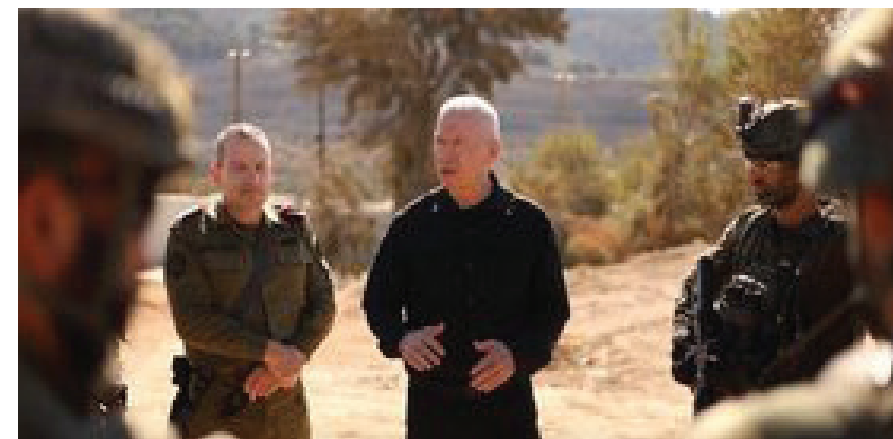
Israel's Defense Minister Yoav Gallant vowed that Israel will prevent Hezbollah forces from reoccupying the southern Lebanese border area after the operation ends.

According to a statement from his office on Sunday, Gallant toured the Lebanon-Israel border, visited an observation post overlooking southern Lebanon, and held a situational assessment with military commanders.

He stated that Israel regards "the entire first line of (southern Lebanese) villages with Hezbollah infrastructure" as its "military targets."

According to Gallant, Hezbollah militants have constructed numerous underground tunnels and weapons storage facilities in these villages, reports Xinhua news agency.

"I have instructed the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) at all levels to ensure the



destruction of these Hezbollah infrastructures and to make sure that terrorists cannot return to these areas," Gallant added.

"IDF troops are currently destroying these (Hezbollah) assets both above and beneath the ground," he said, describing the ongoing raids as "powerful and effective."

He vowed that "even once IDF troops withdraw, we will not allow Hezbollah terrorists to return to these areas."

Fighting across the Israel-Lebanon border continued on Sunday, with the Israeli military claiming that it had struck approximately 200 Hezbollah targets in Lebanon, including rocket launchers, anti-tank missile positions, and other infrastructure. The military also reported that 28 soldiers were injured in fighting with Hezbollah fighters.

The IDF has called on residents of more than 21 villages in southern Leba-

non to evacuate north of the Awali River.

"For your safety, you must leave your homes immediately. Evacuate without delay. Hezbollah elements, facilities, or weapons are in the area, putting your lives at risk," Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee wrote on social media platform X.

In response, Hezbollah continued attacks on Israeli targets. According to Israeli officials, Hezbollah

launched at least 90 rockets at northern Israel by Sunday evening.

The group claimed responsibility for launching a squadron of drones on a training base of the Golani Brigade in Binyamina, northern Israel. The attack marks a rare one in Israel, during which a drone bypassed Israel's air defence system and inflicted heavy casualties, with at least four Israeli soldiers killed and dozens more injured.

Israel has begun what it said was a "limited" ground campaign in Lebanon since early October, targeting Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon. It has also intensified airstrikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, a stronghold of Hezbollah.

The death toll from Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon since Oct. 8, 2023, has reached 2,306, with injuries totalling 10,698, Lebanon's Health Ministry reported on Sunday.

N. Korea appears to be preparing for explosions on roads connected to S. Korea

AGENCIES
SEOUL, OCT 14

North Korea appears to be preparing to carry out explosions at roads connected to South Korea, the South's military has said, just days after Pyongyang vowed to cut off all inter-Korean roads and railways.

On Wednesday, the North Korean People's Army (KPA) announced the measure that will "completely separate" North Korea's territory from that of South Korea and said it sent a telephone message to the US military in the South to "prevent any misjudgment and accidental conflict over the fortification project," reported Yonhap news agency.

"Following an announcement by the KPA on October 9, the North Korean military has been carrying out activities assumed to be linked to explosions on the roads along the Gyeongui



and Donghae lines," the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said.

JCS spokesperson Col. Lee Sung-jun said at a regular briefing that the military detected the North installing covers along the roads to prepare for explosions. "It is possible for (North Korea's explosions) to take place as early as today," he said.

Lee said North Korea could carry out the explosions along the inter-Korean roads or other provocative acts, such as launching a

space projectile, to change the course of the recent situation with the South.

"If North Korea undertakes a provocation, we will strongly retaliate in terms of our right to self-defence," he said. The JCS said it is closely monitoring such activities that are taking place north of the Military Demarcation Line and seeking safety measures for troops and South Korean people.

The Koreans are connected by roads and railways along the Gyeongui line,

which connects the South's western border city of Paju to the North's Kaesong, and the Donghae line along the east coast.

The latest move came as North Korea has been ramping up inter-Korean tensions and wiping out traces of unification after its leader Kim Jong-un defined the Koreans as "two hostile states" last year and has taken steps to eliminate the routes once seen as symbols of inter-Korean exchange and cooperation.

The North has since dismantled street lamps and installed mines along its side of the Gyeongui and Donghae roads as well as deployed troops to build suspected anti-tank barriers and reinforce barbed wire within the North's side of the Demilitarized Zone separating the two Koreans.

On Friday, North Korea claimed that the South had sent unmanned drones over Pyongyang three

times this month. Kim Yonjong, the influential sister of the North Korean leader, warned of a "horrible disaster" if South Korean drones were flown again over the North's capital the following day.

South Korea's defence ministry declined to confirm the claim, citing strategic issues, and warned that the North will see "the end of its regime" if it causes any harm to South Koreans.

In the briefing, Lee also said the military is maintaining full readiness against the possibility of a provocation after the North's military ordered artillery units along the border the previous night to be fully ready to open fire. North Korea earlier ordered eight artillery brigades to be on standby to open fire, and reinforced anti-air observation posts in Pyongyang, citing the possibility of more drone incursions, according to its state media.

Iran warns US troops 'at risk' over missile defence deployment to Israel

AGENCIES
TEHRAN, OCT 14

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi has warned that the US would be endangering its troops by deploying them to Israel to operate American missile defence systems.

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The Pentagon confirmed on Friday that it would deploy the THAAD batteries to Israel to enhance its missile defence capabilities, following Iranian missile attacks.

On October 1, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) fired nearly 180 missiles at Israeli targets.

Tehran described the strikes as retaliation for the assassinations of several regional leaders and Israel's military actions against Lebanese and Palestinian groups.

In response, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned that Iran had made a "grave mistake" and pledged retaliation.

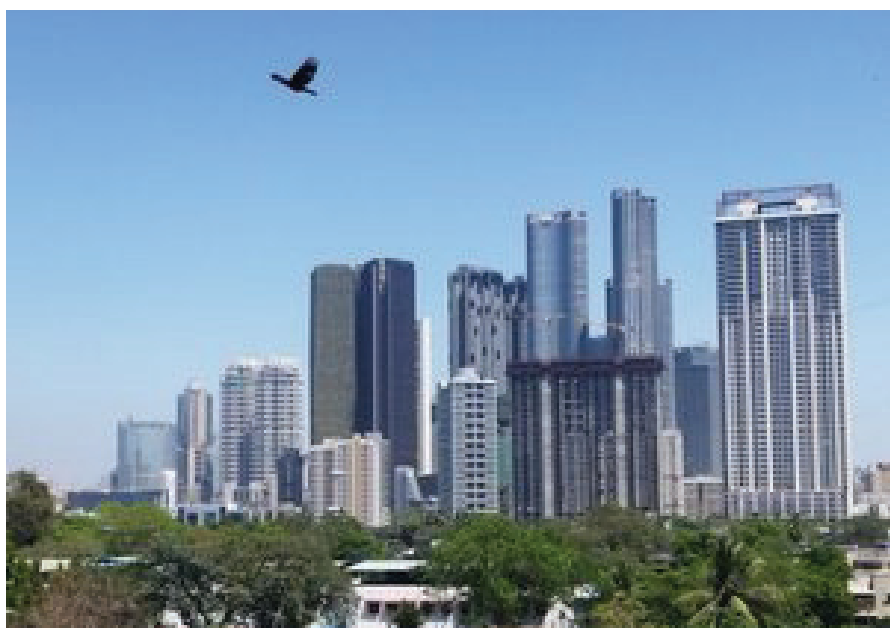
India sees all-time high deal numbers in real estate sector in July-Sep

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

India saw 25 deals worth \$1.3 billion in the real estate sector in the July-September period (Q3), maintaining strong deal volumes and marking an all-time high in deal numbers and second-highest values since Q2 2023, a report showed on Monday.

Deal values were primarily driven by the qualified institutional placement (QIP) activity, private equity funding in residential and commercial segments, and real estate technology companies, according to the report by Grant Thornton Bharat.

Compared to Q2 2024, the third quarter saw a 71 per cent decline in overall private equity (PE) and mergers and acquisitions (M&A) deal value but a 5 per cent increase in deal volume.



"Year-over-year comparison shows a 54 per cent increase in deal volumes and a 41 per cent decline in values compared to Q3 2023," said the report.

Q3 2024 saw three

inbound deals in the property development space and two outbound deals in the student housing and online rental platform sectors.

PE activity in Q3 2024 saw 12 deals valued at

\$401 million. Deal volumes remained consistent with Q2 2024, indicating sustained interest in the sector.

The top two deals accounted for \$346 million, highlighting a con-

centration of value in fewer transactions.

Despite decline in funding values over Q2 2024, deal values continued to outperform those in both Q1 2024 and Q3 2023, according to the report.

Q3 2024 saw one IPO raising \$49 million, maintaining consistency with previous quarters. The quarter witnessed a significant surge in QIPs, with four deals totalling \$940 million.

"This represents a nearly six-fold increase in QIP values compared to Q2 2024," the report mentioned.

The robust QIP activity demonstrates growing confidence in real estate firms' ability to access public markets.

Renewed PE and M&A activity in the latter part of Q3 signals potential for increased momentum in Q4 2024, the report noted.

India surpasses 200 GW-mark in renewable energy production

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

Led by solar and wind energy, India has crossed the 200 gigawatt (GW)-mark in renewable energy (RE) production in the month of September.

As per latest data from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the renewable energy-based electricity generation capacity (including small and large hydro, biomass and co-generation and waste-to-energy) crossed the 200 GW-mark in September.

The total RE production reached 201,457.91 MW, driven by solar at 90,762 MW and wind energy production at 47,363 MW.

The country's total non-fossil fuel-based power capacity now stands at 46.3 per cent of the total installed electricity generation capacity.

Top four states are Rajasthan (31.5 GW), Gujarat



(28.3 GW), Tamil Nadu (23.7 GW) and Karnataka (22.3 GW), as per the data.

According to the government, the country saw an impressive 86 per cent increase in power generation via renewable energy since 2014, from 193.5 billion units (BU) to 360 BU.

Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi, said last week that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has witnessed a transformative increase in its renew-

able energy capacity since 2014, with a 175 per cent rise from 75 GW to over 200 GW today.

India is also making significant strides in the green shipping sector, and aims to be among the top 10 shipbuilding nations by 2030 and the top five by 2047.

India is the only G20 country to have met its climate targets ahead of schedule, despite having the lowest per capita emissions among G20 nations.

INDIA ENTERS TOP LEAGUE GLOBALLY IN FILING 6G TECH PATENTS

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

After successfully deploying 5G across the nation in record time, India is fast advancing on 6G technology, and now ranks in the top league when it comes to filing patents related to 6G.

The country now ranks among top six in global 6G patent filings. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has envisaged India to be a front-line contributor in the design, development and deployment of 6G technology by 2030.

Under the 'Bharat 6G Vision', the government is already evaluating 470 proposals on 'Accelerated research on 6G Ecosystem'. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has funded the two next-generation tes-



teds to advance the 6G research.

According to a government-led panel, India can achieve a share of 10 per cent of all 6G patents along with one-sixth contributions to global standards in the next three years.

The country has already launched various initiatives like 'Bharat 6G Vision' and 'Bharat 6G Alliance', along with the patent and IPR support

framework and commissioning of testbeds.

As per industry experts, for India to become a deep-tech leader, penetration of both wireline and intelligent wireless broadband networks, with reliable connectivity, is critical.

World telecom leader, experts and academia from more than 190 countries are set to attend the 10-day World Telecom

Standardisation Assembly (WTSA2024) in India from October 14-24. The 'WTSA 2024' is being held for the first time in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) history of 150 years in the national capital from October 14-24.

According to DoT, India hosting the 'WTSA-2024' is an opportunity to influence the global telecom agenda as we prepare for advancements like 6G and beyond. Now, the DoT has set the ball rolling by launching the WTSA 2024 Outreach Sessions.

Scheduled in Delhi, Hyderabad and Bengaluru, the outreach sessions aim to provide a distinctive platform to students for learning and direct engagement with industry experts, fostering meaningful interactions and knowledge exchange.

Indian conglomerates set to spend \$800 bn on growth, new businesses in focus

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

Indian conglomerates are likely to spend about \$800 billion on growth over the next 10 years, almost triple of what they spent over the prior decade, a report showed on Monday.

"About 40 per cent of Indian conglomerates' spending over the coming decade will be on new businesses, such as green hydrogen, clean energy, aviation, semiconductors, electric vehicles (EVs) and data centres," said Neel Gopalakrishnan, credit analyst at S&P Global Ratings.

The Adani Group, Tata, JSW group and others are prepping about \$350 billion of investment in the new and emerging sectors over the next decade.

Many of the other con-



glomerates will focus more on their established businesses, with an emphasis on boosting scale and profitability. The Birla, Mahindra, Hinduja, Hero, ITC, Bajaj and the Murugappa groups have a record of conservative growth, for example, according to the report by S&P Global Ratings.

Indian conglomerates will likely invest about \$400 billion-\$500 billion over the next 10 years

in existing businesses, if they continue investing at a similar rate as that seen over the past two years.

The opportunity for growth for Indian conglomerates is huge. But the heavy spending on investment also presents risk-execution risk, and the risk of borrowing heavily on technology with unproven commercial payoff, such as green hydrogen, said Gopal-

akrishnan. According to the report, as absolute debt levels rise, firms will need to continuously strengthen their core businesses to maintain their credit profiles.

Any underperformance during the investment phase would likely hit credit metrics, the report mentioned.

Political stability and policy continuity will bring rigour to reforms, fostering the development process towards becoming 'Viksit Bharat'.

According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the real GDP for FY25 is estimated to be 7.2 per cent, which is in line with global projections amid strong fundamentals, rising consumption and robust investment sentiment in the country.

KG Mobility, Renault Korea threaten Hyundai, Kia in midsize SUV market

AGENCIES
SEOUL, OCT 14

KG Mobility and Renault Korea Motors have made strong challenges with their new models in the midsize SUV segment, which has been largely dominated by Hyundai Motor Group, according to industry data on Monday.

According to the Korea Automobile and Mobility Industry Association, KG Mobility's Actyon and Renault Korea's Grand Koleos, both SUV brands introduced this summer, sold 1,686 units and 3,900 units, respectively, in September.

Their combined market share totalled 24.8 per cent in the total domestic midsize SUV market last



month, reports Yonhap news agency.

The joint market share of the two models has shown an increase since their launches in August. The joint share of the Actyon and Grand Koleos jumped 19.7 percentage

points from the 5.1 per cent reading in August.

During the same period, the market share of Hyundai Motor Group's Santa Fe and Sorento together have shown a steady decline.

In July, Kia's Sorento and Hyundai's Santa Fe

held a 64.7 per cent share in the segment, but following the launch of competing new models from KG Mobility and Renault Korea, their share fell to 56.8 per cent in August and further down to 53 per cent last month.

Given how the Actyon and Grand Koleos have gained a higher market share than what Hyundai Motor Group lost during the period, industry watchers suggest that the two models have also absorbed demand from non-competing models as well.

Industry experts view the introduction of new competitive models into the midsize SUV lineup, which has remained largely unchanged for years, as a positive development

that offers consumers more choices.

Meanwhile, Kia said on Monday it has released a revamped version of its Carnival minivan model with a suite of improved safety and convenience features along with upgraded value proposition.

Kia has reinforced the steering control system of the Carnival to improve the model's lane-keeping assistance feature, and has added steering wheel grip detection sensors using capacitive technology across all trims.

Additionally, convenience features such as the Kia Digital Key 2 and touch-type outside door handles are now standard in the model's Signature trim and above.

There really was no one like Ratan Tata, says N Chandrasekaran

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran on Monday said that anybody who met late Ratan Tata came away with a story about his humanity, warmth and dreams for India as "there really was no one like him".

Remembering Ratan Tata, who passed away last week at age 86, Chandrasekaran said in a post on LinkedIn that he always ensured employees are taken care of along with the well-being of their families across the Tata Group companies, which shaped a number of leaders across the conglomerate. "Our relation-

ship grew over the years, first focusing on business and eventually evolving into a more personal connection. We discussed interests ranging from cars to hotels, but when our conversations turned to other matters - those of daily life - he would show how much he noticed and felt. He was someone to be discovered, over time and through experience," wrote Tata Sons CEO.

Noel Naval Tata, the half-brother of Ratan Tata, has been appointed as Chairman of Tata Trusts.

Chandrasekaran stated that just after he became Chairman, "I was introduced to a situation within Tata Motors which involved

a dispute between the company and the employees' union over wages for two years".

In March 2017, Ratan Tata and he met the union leaders together. During the meeting, Ratan Tata relayed three messages -- he regretted the delay in finding a resolution. He explained that the company was passing through hardship. And both of them committed that this dispute would be concluded within a fortnight.

"Mr. Tata's direction squarely focused on making sure employees were well taken care of - not just to resolve the dispute, but to ensure their and their families' well-being.

India's wholesale inflation inches up to 1.84 pc in Sep

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

India's wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation inched up to 1.84% in September 2024 on annualised basis from 1.31% in the previous month, as per official data released on Monday.

The annual rate of inflation based on WPI Food Index increased from 3.26% in August, 2024 to 9.47% in September, 2024.

"Positive rate of inflation in September, 2024 is

primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, food products, other manufacturing, manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers & semi-trailers, manufacture of machinery & equipment, etc." Ministry of Commerce said in a release.

The month over month change in WPI index for the month of September, 2024 stood at 0.06% as compared to August, 2024. The official data showed primary articles inflation rose 6.59% in September

this year as against 2.42% in August this year. Inflation in fuel and power declined by 4.05% in September as compared to a dip of 0.67% in the previous month. Manufactured products inflation rose by 1% in September as compared to 1.22% in August this year.

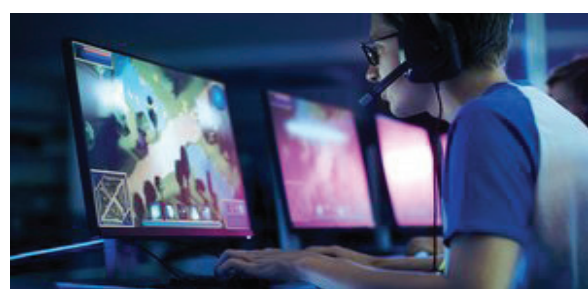
Food article inflation surged 11.53% in September this year. Significantly, vegetable inflation spiked by 48.73% in September, after a fall of 10.01% in the previous month.

India's online gaming sector projected to reach \$60 billion by 2034

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

India's online gaming sector, currently valued at \$3.1 billion, has the potential to expand to a staggering \$60 billion by 2034 amid challenges surrounding regulation and taxation, a report showed on Monday.

The US has been a significant contributor to India's gaming sector, with \$1.7 billion out of the total \$2.5 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) coming from the



US alone.

"This reflects the immense confidence global investors have in India's rapidly growing gaming market, which is projected to become a \$60 billion

opportunity by 2034," according to Dr Mukesh Aghi, President and CEO, United States India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).

Notably, 90 per cent of

this FDI is in the pay-to-play segment, which also accounts for 85 per cent of the sector's overall valuation. However, challenges surrounding regulation and taxation persist. India stands out for its high tax rate, imposing a 28 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) for all formats on the total deposits made by players, according to the report by USISPF and TMT Law Practice.

The report also highlighted that the United Nations Central Product Classifica-

tion (UN CPC), which forms the basis for taxation in domestic jurisdictions globally, defines online gaming separately from online gambling. "With a large consumer base of over 600 million gamers, this space is rapidly being monetised and presents a substantial export opportunity. However, for Indian companies to compete on a global stage, we need a level playing field with progressive tax and regulatory policies that align with international standards," said Aghi.

Ranji Trophy: Bhatt's 10-wicket haul helps Baroda beat Mumbai by 84 runs

AGENCIES
VADODARA, OCT 14

Left-arm spinner Bhargav Bhatt, clinched a 10-wicket haul, including six wickets in the second innings, as Baroda kicked off their Ranji Trophy 2024-25 campaign in sensational fashion, defeating reigning champions Mumbai by 84 runs in the opening round at the Kotambi Stadium.

Chasing a target of 262, Mumbai had ended Day 3 on 42/2, losing key wickets of Prithvi Shaw and Hardik Tamore. With the defending champions still in contention, captain Ajinkya Rahane and Ayush Mhatre were expected to provide some stability. However, Bhatt quickly turned the tide in Baroda's favour,



dismissing both Rahane and Mhatre early on Day 4, giving a critical blow to Mumbai's hopes.

Shreyas Iyer, who is eyeing a comeback to the Indian national team, then partnered with Siddhesh Lad, attempting to

steady the innings. The pair put together a 41-run stand and looked poised to revive Mumbai's chase. But Bhatt returned to snare the vital wicket of Iyer, who was dismissed for 30, a turning point in the game that opened up

Mumbai's lower order.

With the pressure mounting, Bhatt struck again, removing Shams Mulani and Shardul Thakur, leaving Mumbai's tail exposed. Despite Lad's valiant efforts, scoring 59 off 94 balls, Mumbai found themselves on the back foot as wickets continued to tumble at the other end. Tanush Kotian and Mohit Avasthi failed to provide the necessary support, and Bhatt eventually claimed the final wicket of the match, dismissing Lad and sealing the win for Baroda.

Earlier, Baroda in their first innings scored 290, courtesy of Mitesh Patel 86 and Atit Seth 66 as Tanush Kotoan clinched four while Shams Mulani bagged

three wickets for Mumbai. Ayush Mhatre on his debut Ranji match scored 52 and was the highest scorer for Mumbai in the first innings as Bhatt's four wickets and Akash Singh's three restricted Mumbai on 214.

Baroda, will now travel to Delhi to face Services in their next fixture. Meanwhile, Mumbai will look to bounce back in their upcoming clash against Maharashtra, starting on October 18.

Brief scores: Baroda 290 & 185 (Krunal Pandya 55, Atit Seth 40; Tanush Kotian 5-61, Himanshu Singh 3-50) beat Mumbai 214 & 177 (Siddhesh Lad 59, Shreyas Iyer 30; Bhargav Bhatt 6-55, Mahesh Pithiya 2-68) by 84 runs.

2nd Test: Stokes, Potts replace Woakes & Atkinson in England's XI

AGENCIES
MULтан, OCT 14



A fit-again England captain Ben Stokes and pacer Matthew Potts replace Chris Woakes and Gus Atkinson in England's playing eleven for the second Test against Pakistan at Multan, starting on Tuesday.

Stokes returns after missing England's last four Test matches due to a hamstring tear, which kept him on the sidelines since early August. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) have said Stokes has fully recovered from his injury, and he will take back the leadership mantle from stand-in captain Ollie Pope.

Meanwhile, Potts returns to the side for the first time since playing in the Lord's Test against

Sri Lanka at the end of August. It also means that Atkinson has been left out of the Test team for the first time since making his debut in England's home summer. The duo along with Brydon Carse - who play for Durham in the domestic circuit - will make for England's fast-bowling line-up, while Jack Leach and Shoaib Bashir, along with Joe Root's part-time off-spin, will continue to handle spin-bowling duties.

Left-handed opener Ben Duckett retains his spot in the eleven after recovering from a dislocated thumb sustained on the second evening of the first Test at Multan, which England won by an innings and 47 runs.

Wicketkeeper-batter Jamie Smith is slotted to bat at number seven, to allow Stokes to return to his usual sixth place in the batting order who posted a whopping 823/7 declared in the series opener. A victory in the second Test at Multan will give England their second consecutive series win in Pakistan following their 3-0 triumph in 2022.

England playing eleven: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (captain), Jamie Smith (wk), Brydon Carse, Matthew Potts, Jack Leach, and Shoaib Bashir

Shashi Tharoor welcomes 'ton-up Sanju' after maiden T20I century

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has extended a hero's welcome to India wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson upon his return to Thiruvananthapuram after his scintillating performance in India's record-breaking T20I victory against Bangladesh in Hyderabad.

Tharoor, a long-time supporter of Samson, felicitated the wicketkeeper-batter during a special ceremony at his residence on Monday, where he presented him with a blue 'ponnada' (shawl).

"Delighted to give a hero's welcome to 'ton-up Sanju' as @IamSanjuSamson returned to Thiruvananthapuram after his stunning century against Bangladesh. I found a 'ponnada'

in the appropriate India colours to honour him with!" Tharoor wrote on X.

Samson played a blistering knock of 111 off 47 deliveries against Bangladesh in the final T20I of the three-match series. Having struggled for form earlier in the series, where he had failed to convert his starts in Gwalior and Delhi, Samson found his rhythm just in time for the final match of the series.

His century, which he brought up in just 40 balls, is the second-fastest T20I hundred by an Indian, behind only Rohit Sharma.

His powerful knock, combined with Suryakumar Yadav's explosive batting, propelled India to their highest-ever T20I total and the second-highest total in the format's history.

Mendis, Beaumont win ICC Player of the Month for September

AGENCIES
DUBAI, OCT 14

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis and England's Tammy Beaumont as winners of the men's and women's ICC Player of the Month award for September, respectively.

Mendis continued a record-breaking streak in Test cricket during September to win the ICC Men's Player of the Month, while Beaumont starred in England's short format success in Ireland to secure the ICC Women's Player of the Month award.

Both players win their respective accolades for the second time - Mendis having previously won in March 2024, with Beaumont backing up her other previous award in February 2021. Mendis won from fellow nominees Travis

Head of Australia and compatriot Prabath Jayasuriya, while Beaumont overcame Ireland's Aimee Maguire and UAE's Esha Oza to land September's prize.

Mendis' win also caps a fruitful period for Sri Lankan cricketers in the monthly award, following Dunith Wellalage and Harshitha Samarawickrama's success in August.

The 26-year-old has been in red-hot form in the longest format throughout 2024 and continued his fine progress with another landmark month at the crease for Sri Lanka.

Mendis registered 451 runs at an average of 90.20 from his four Tests last month, spanning crucial ICC World Test Championship series in England and subsequently on home soil against New Zealand.

Scores of 74 and 64 were standout moments in Mendis' September con-



tests in England but he left his best performances as Sri Lanka overcame New Zealand at his hometown of Galle - first striking a brilliant 114 on the opening day of the first Test on a challenging surface, and then going one better with a composed 182 in the innings victory in the second encounter.

His mammoth innings in the second Test meant Mendis became the first player to pass fifty in each of his first eight Tests, and the fastest batter in 75 years to reach 1,000 Test

runs.

ICC Men's Player of the Month for September, Kamindu Mendis, "I am honoured to be once again chosen as the ICC Men's Player of the Month, and this accolade brings me immense happiness and pride, as I believe all the hard work that was put into becoming the player that I am today is starting to pay off and being recognized consistently in the global stage.

"This recognition gives me further strength to continue my good work

on the cricketing field and aspire for bigger achievements, thus helping my team win games and bring glory to our country and happiness to our fans."

ICC Women's Player of the Month Beaumont smashed 279 runs from her five outings against Ireland in September, highlighting her credentials as one of England's most fearsome short format batters. A subdued performance in the first contest was corrected in the match that followed, with Beaumont's explosive array of strokeplay on show in a dazzling 150 from 139 balls atop the order.

With the series won, Beaumont struck another half-century in the final ODI before scores of 27 and 40 came in the T20I series in which the honours were shared.

The win sees Beaumont become the first English

winner of the Women's Player of the Month award since Maia Bouchier won back in March.

Reacting to her award win, ICC Women's Player of the Month, Tammy Beaumont, said, "Thank you to everyone who voted for me as ICC Women's Player of the Month for September. It was a great tour in Ireland with an inexperienced England team and it was really nice to contribute personally.

"I saw firsthand how well Aimee Maguire bowled for Ireland and she fully deserved the nomination. Congratulations to Esha Oza too."

Mendis and Beaumont won following a vote conducted among global fans registered at icc-cricket.com and a specialist panel comprising ICC Hall of Famers, former international players, and media representatives.

This Indian team is good enough to beat any side in the world, says Parthiv Patel

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 14

Ahead of India's three match Test series against New Zealand, former wicketkeeper-batter Parthiv Patel firmly believes the Rohit Sharma-led side is capable of beating any side in the world currently in the longest format of the game.

Since the time New Zealand beat India in 2021 World Test Championship final, India made it to another final in 2023 and is currently the top-ranked side in this format. They are also coming off after a 2-0 series win over Bangladesh, especially after batting aggressively in the rain-hit Kanpur Test to register a remarkable triumph.

"I don't see pitches being like what they were against Bangladesh. It won't be seaming as much as it was in Chennai and Kanpur, but looking at this squad, I don't think India needs those kinds of



pitches or even turners. This Indian team is good enough to beat any side in the world at this point."

"Obviously, they would like to get some runs from Rohit Sharma with the way he has been playing and Axar Patel may get an opportunity. Against New Zealand, you want to win the series and India will be challenged at some point. But I think India has the personnel to defeat New Zealand," said Parthiv to JioCinema.

India will play the open-

ing game against New Zealand at Bengaluru on October 16, followed by playing next two matches in Pune and Mumbai. Parthiv, who earned 25 Test caps, feels India need to be wary of challenge from left-arm spin duo of Mitchell Santner and Ajaz Patel, owing to the batters' previous struggles against them.

"With the WTC in mind, I'm sure India would like to win 3-0, and that's a likely outcome. But India will be challenged, and their biggest challenge will be han-

dling left-arm spinners, Mitchell Santner and Ajaz Patel. India has always struggled against left-arm spinners, so that will be their biggest test."

Ex-keeper and selector Saba Karim thinks India have to be focused on the task at their hand, instead of thinking about the all-important five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy series in Australia later this year.

"I think India's biggest challenge will be to stay focused on the present and not think too far ahead to the Australian tour. They need to build on the positives we've seen in recent home series, like the emergence of exciting young pace bowlers."

"Akash Deep was a revelation, and India also has several spinners to choose from. The selectors and team management will have to figure out the best combination to play, but personally, I'd love to see Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli firing at the top."

India also have four travelling reserves in Harshit Rana, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mayank Yadav and Prashidh Krishna for the Tests against New Zealand, which caught Karim's curiosity. He signed off by cautioning India over taking New Zealand, who lost 2-0 in Sri Lanka, lightly.

"I think this is the first time since COVID that we are seeing four travelling reserves, which means that the Indian team management is already looking ahead to the Australian tour.

The team looks well-equipped and well-balanced in terms of quality."

"However, New Zealand has always been a very competitive side. Although they suffered a heavy defeat in Sri Lanka and may feel deflated, they have an inner strength that could surface. Since they've played in India before and managed to draw a game last time, India will have to work hard."

We will back players to play high-risk cricket: Gautam Gambhir

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, OCT 14

Ahead of their three-match Test series against New Zealand starting on Wednesday, India head coach Gautam Gambhir stated that the team think-tank will continue to back their batters in playing high-risk cricket in the longer format.

In its last Test match, which was played against Bangladesh in a rain-hit Green Park Stadium at Kanpur, India came out all guns blazing in their first innings by setting new records for the fastest 50, 100, 150, 200 and 250 scores in the longer format, before declaring at 285/9.

The Rohit Sharma-led side then chased down 95 in 17.2 to complete a blazing win and seal the series 2-0.

"We want people to be aggressive, go out there and play the natural game. Why do we need to hold on people? If they can play



the natural game, get 400 or 500 runs in a day, why not?"

"I've always maintained T20 cricket has to be played that way, and we will play that way. High risk, high reward, high risk, high failure, and we will continue to play that way. There will be days when we'll get bundled out for 100, but we'll take it up, continue to back our players to go out there and play high risk cricket."

"That's how we want to play, entertain the people of this country, and even in Test cricket, we want to keep making the game go forward, and try to get

the results in whatever situation we are in," said Gambhir in a pre-series press conference.

New Zealand haven't won a Test match in India since 1988, but Gambhir remarked the hosts' won't take the Tom Latham-led side lightly, citing the quality player they have and their capabilities of making the visitors' be in the drivers' seat at any point in the game.

"See, New Zealand is a completely different challenge. We know that they're a very, very professional unit, have got some really high quality players who can hurt us, and can do the job for them as well."

"So, we respect them, but we don't fear anyone. I've said it many times that we will always respect every opposition, be selfless, humble, try and play the game as hard as possible on the cricket field. Once the game is over, we want to try and stay as humble as possible."

Women's T20 WC: Alyssa sent message on what I needed & how she could help, reveals Tahlia

AGENCIES
SHARJAH, OCT 14

The future of Alyssa Healy's involvement in the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup remains uncertain as she missed the side's thrilling nine-run win against India due to an acute right foot injury. Stand-in captain

Tahlia McGrath disclosed that Alyssa, who entered the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on crutches and moon boot, wasted no time in contacting her to discuss tactical planning and offer her assistance based on the team's requirements shortly after being ruled out of Sunday's game.

"She's been great. She's such a passionate cricketer that she wanted to be involved in every single aspect, and she sent me a message straight away (after she was injured) asking me what I needed and how she could help. She was in our meeting when we were working out

match-ups."

"From all reports she was a very painful watcher who just wanted to be out there and wanted to be involved. She's huge for this team and she's well and truly part of it, whether she's on the field or off the field, she helps out enormously and we all

love getting around her at the moment," said Tahlia to reporters.

Australia also managed to survive an unbeaten 54 from India captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who single-handedly kept her side in the hunt. Tahlia felt not allowing Harmanpreet to cut loose early

on, especially when there were no boundaries from overs 8-10, eventually allowed Australia to scrape through.

"(Harmanpreet) controls run chases unbelievably well we've seen her do it time and time again. As soon as Harman's at the wicket in a run chase you

never feel fully in control because she can just go through the gears really quick and take a game away from you."

"So I thought we contained her really well early and then never quite let her get away ... in saying that, she batted really well in some tough conditions

but I was really happy with the way we contained her," she added.

Asked on how she would compare an India-Australia rivalry to the England-Australia one, Tahlia remarked, "Every game we play (against India) comes down to the wire."

Two day CBP on GST for tax officers commences at Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 14

The two-day Capacity Building Programme (CBP) for Tax Officers to strengthen human resource of State Taxes Department (STD), J&K for implementation of Goods and Service Tax (GST) commenced today at Excise and Taxation Training Institution here.

The workshop is being organised by State Taxes Department (STD), J&K in collaboration with Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

The two day workshop was inaugurated by Additional Commissioner, Administration & Enforcement, Jammu, Namrita Dogra in which all Deputy Commissioners of Tax department, Assistant Commissioner and State Tax Officers of Jammu division participated.

Speaking on the occasion, Namrita Dogra said that the Capacity Building



Programme has been initiated under the guidance of Commissioner State Taxes Department, P K Bhat.

She said that this strategic move not only enhances the productivity of tax officers of STD but also promotes significant partnership between the ICAI community for larger economic growth of the nation. She added that the training module will continue tomorrow (October 15) and resource persons from ICAI will cover topics on demand, recovery, appeals, E-way Bill and Enforcement process.

In the first session,

ICAI's resource person CA Rahat Mohan informed the officers of Jammu division regarding audit under GST, types of Audits, Basic & Procedural provisions, covering audit u/s 65 of CGST Act, 2017 and related rules in detail besides risk-based selection. Doubts of STOs were also cleared through question-and-answer session, wherein from basic concepts of audit to advance and technical issues were discussed in detail.

In the second session of the day, ICAI's resource person CA Archana Jain delivered the lecture on Audit of Banking and Insur-

ance sector, Procedural Checks under GST, ITC Taken, utilised, reversed, Specialised accounting practices for presentation of financial statement and Scrutiny of Returns and other records.

The Capacity Building programme also deliberated on issues included GST law pertaining to real estate, hospitality and tourism sector, banking & insurance industry, work contracts as well as analysis of financial statements of banking & insurance companies with GST perspective.

Other issues like Types of Red Flag Reports, Investigation Experiences - Interesting cases with practical insights, System Overview of Scrutiny and Audit and Return and E-invoicing under GST were also discussed during the workshop. The Capacity Building programme received incredibly positive feedback from the participants.

Principal Secretary reviews achievements under HADP, CAPEX, other CSSs for 2024-25

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14

Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shaileendra Kumar, today convened a meeting to review the physical and financial achievements under Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), CAPEX and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes at agriculture complex, Lal Mandi. Present in the meeting were Mission Director HADP, Rahul Yadav, Secretary Technical APD, G A Sofi; Special Secretary APD, Shafat Iqbal; Director Finance APD, Hamkant Prashar, Director Finance APD, Tabassum; Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir, Director Fisheries and other officers of the concerned departments. During the



meeting, implementation of projects under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program besides different Centrally Sponsored Schemes being executed by the department of Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries department were discussed in detail.

Addressing the meeting, Shaileendra Kumar highlighted the importance of expeditious and judicious expenditure of funds under different projects of HADP and CAPEX and other CSSs. He asked the officers that HADP projects, different

components of centrally sponsored schemes must be expended in a time bound manner. He reiterated the importance of maintaining the highest level of transparency and accountability during all the expenditures.

He directed the officers to reach out to the farmers of every area and make them aware about HADP besides latest farmer friendly technologies in these sectors. He asked the officers to work in collaboration with the farmer communities for successful implementation of different projects at grass root level.

DC reviews formulation of AMRUT 2.0 Plan in Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 14

To review the modalities and formulation of the AMRUT 2.0 plan in the district, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, convened a meeting with officers and field functionaries of Jal Shakti Department at the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Udhampur.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr. Umesh Shan, XEN PHE, Ashok Kumar and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the DC discussed the plan for the lifting of water under AMRUT 2.0, emphasizing the need to ensure maximum benefit for the residents while formulating the plan.

DLSA Ganderbal organizes Awareness programme on 'International Girl Child Day'

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 14

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal in collaboration with Chief Education Office Ganderbal and Govt. Higher Secondary School Kurhama Ganderbal celebrated 'International Girl Child Day' at Girls Higher Secondary School Kurhama.

The event, held under the guidance of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal, and the supervision of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary DLSA Ganderbal, aimed to raise awareness about the challenges faced by girls and to promote their empowerment.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary DLSA Ganderbal eloquently highlighted the need to address challenges faced by girls, promot-

ing empowerment, gender equality and the recognition of girls' rights, emphasizing their potential and the need for their active participation in all spheres of life.

He added that girls' safety is our collective responsibility; we must protect them from violence, exploitation and child marriage. The stirring speech culminated in a passionate call for action.

Rumysa Sangeen, Deputy Chief Education Officer delivered a powerful speech, emphasizing the significance of International Girl Child Day and its role in empowering girls. She said that a generational change has to come in our attitudes towards our daughters and the International Girl Child Day is the day to promote such a sentiment.

Students of the school

shared their perspectives and aspirations, adding a personal touch to the event.

Other distinguished speakers, including Shubana, Chairperson Child Welfare Committee Ganderbal and Sobiya Social Worker, Special Cell for women also shared their insights on the occasion.

The event was further enriched by captivating cultural performances. The Secretary, DLSA and Principal Govt. Boys Hr. Secondary School Kurhama distributed certificates of appreciation among the students who participated in various activities.

To further amplify the message of empowerment and importance of Girl Child, a rally was organized from the Kurhama area, raising awareness about the importance of girls' education and their rights.

Power shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 14

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Tanda, Maira Mandrian, Balli Gulaba, Chowki Choura, Sungal Samah and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 15, 17 and 19 from 7 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Canal, Medical, Toph, Bohri, Satwari, Pounichak, Bhagwati Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 16 from 7 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Baggan, Malad, Marhoon, Dhar Dugnoo, Basohli, Plasi, Bhoond, Bani, Duggan, Sandhar, Ramkot, Gujroo Nagrota, Lakhri, Gurah Kalyal and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 16 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Mahanpur, Dhar-Mahanpur, Raipur, Billawar, Mandli, Bhaddu, Dewal, Macheddi, Baggan, Tandli, Sukral, Kudethar, Sadotra, Bhoond, Bani, Duggan, Sandhar, Maska, Sewand and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 17 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Khour, Phariwala, Jogwan and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 17 from 7 am to 1 pm.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to BB Town, Kaluchak and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 19 from 6 am to 9 am and on October 20 from 7 am to 11 am.

DC Shopian inspects health care facilities at Community Health Centre Zainapora



JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 14

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today inspected the quality of medical services, attendance of staff and patient care in Government Community Health Centre (CHC), Zainapora, Shopian during his visit to the sub division.

The DC inspected the General ward, OPD, Surgical Ward, Gynae Ward and other sections of the CHC and took stock of the medical facilities being provided to the patients.

He interacted with the patients, attendants and enquired about the treatment being provided to them in the hospital.

Block Medical Officer, Zainapora, apprised the DC about the staff position, their attendance and overall functioning of the health centre.

The DC also interacted with the patients to understand their healthcare needs and listened to their feedback on issues.

He directed the BMO to take necessary measures to ensure that patients receive the best possible care.

The DC's visit was aimed to assess the functioning of the CHC in the area and identify the gaps that need to be filled to improve the delivery of essential services to the local community.

Earlier, DC visited and inspected under-con-

struction Government Degree College Zainapora coming up at an estimated cost of 1884.90 lacs, executed by R&B Zainapora and directed the concerned executing agency to speed up their developmental activities to ensure early completion of the Degree College.

The DC also directed for completing the ground floor of the said Degree College within stipulated time frame. He stressed for completing it by the end of November, 2024 so that Degree College functioning at present in Zainapora may be shifted here to facilitate the students of Zainapora.

ADC, ACR, SDM and other concerned were present.

Government Medical College Srinagar welcomes New MBBS Batch

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14

Government Medical College Srinagar today welcomed the new MBBS Batch 2024 in a grand function held here.

During the event, freshers were introduced to the Heads of Departments, faculty members, administration, and also other staff associated with academics, marking the beginning of their medical journey.

On the occasion, students were briefed about the college's rules and regulations, academic schedule, and various facilities available. They were introduced to departments like Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry and also departments in their undergraduate course.

The new batch was familiarized with associated hospitals, including Govt. SMHS Hospital, Govt. Super Specialty Hospital, Govt. 500 bedded Children Hospital Bemina, Govt. Bone & Joint Hospital, Govt. Chest Disease Hospital, Govt. LD hospital, Kashmir Nursing Home and Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences,

apart from giving them an overview of peripheral health centres associated with the Deptt of Community Medicine of GMC Srinagar.

In her welcome address Principal/Dean Govt, Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan warmly welcomed the students and their parents emphasizing GMC Srinagar's commitment to quality medical education, highlighting academic excellence, clinical exposure, research opportunities, and student support services. Parents of the students were also requested to work shoulder to shoulder with the teachers and the college administration so as to shape them up into good doctors.

HODs of various specialties like Prof. Nahid Nahvi from Microbiology, Prof. Ghulam Mohammad from Anatomy, Prof. Sabiya Majeed from Biochemistry, Prof. Shahzada Salim Khan from Community Medicine, Dr Arsalan from Forensic Medicine, Prof. Rakesh Kaul from Medicine, Prof. Iqbal Saleem from General Surgery, Prof. Muzzafar Jan from Paediatrics, Prof. Mohammad Maqbool from Psychiatry,

Prof. Altaf Kawoosa from Orthopaedics, Dr. Yasmeen Jaheen from Dermatology, Prof. Masuma Rizvi from Gynaecology & Obstetrics and Prof Shoukat Ahmad Kadla from Gastroenterology also introduced their departments, outlining departmental strengths, faculty expertise, teaching methodologies, and research focus areas and welcomed the students.

Administrator Associated hospitals GMC Srinagar, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak and other administrative staff were also introduced to the students.

Professor Suhail Ahmad Gilkar from Physiology and Coordinator Medical Education Unit (MEU) who moderated the event, gave an overview of GMC Srinagar and administered oath to the students for formal induction in the MBBS course.

Dy Registrar Academics Prof. Saleem Ittoo briefed the Students about the teaching programmes in GMC Srinagar and advised them to work hard, develop critical thinking and seek guidance from faculty and mentors.

Inter-College Table Tennis Tournament 2024 concludes at GCOE Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 14

The Inter-College Table Tennis Tournament 2024, organized at the Government College of Education Jammu, saw exciting competition among participants from five prominent colleges. The event featured both men's and women's categories, with teams from Govt. MAM College, GCW Gandhi Nagar, Govt. SPMR College of Commerce, GGM Science College, and the host college, Govt. College of Education. About 50 students participated in the event.

Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal of Govt. College of Education served as the Chief Guest for the event, applauded the players for their efforts and encouraged them to continue honing their skills. Dr. Vinod Bakshi, Director

Sports, Cluster University of Jammu and the Guest of Honour, praised the students for their dedication and motivated them to maintain the spirit of sportsmanship in every game. Prof. Satish Sharma attended as the Special Guest, further elevating the significance of the event. In the Men's category, Govt. SPMR College of Commerce emerged victorious, defeating Govt. MAM College with an impressive score of 3-0. In the Women's category, Govt. SPMR College of Commerce also secured victory by beating GGM Science College with a score of 3-1.

The entire tournament was organized under the expert supervision of Dr. Vinod Bakshi. The event was officiated by Ajay Ratra and Rekha Ratra, ensuring a fair and smooth conduct of the matches.

GMC Udhampur administration welcomes second batch of MBBS students

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 14

Government Medical College (GMC) Udhampur welcomed its second batch of MBBS students with an induction ceremony.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Rakesh Sharma, MEU Coordinator, Professor & Head of the Department of ENT.

The ceremony commenced with the lighting of the traditional lamp and Saraswati Vandana, followed by a welcome address by the Principal, Dr. Mrityunjay.

In his address, he warmly greeted the students, appreciating their choice of this noble stream that will shape their future careers. He emphasized the importance of hard



work, determination, and resilience in the medical profession. The students were also briefed on the institute's motto, rules, and regulations.

This was followed by the Apron wearing and Stethoscope Adorning Ceremony. The students then took the "Charak Shapath," administered by Dr. Nazuk Razdan, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine.

The ceremony was attended by Dr. Vanita Gupta, Professor & Head,

Department of Anatomy; Dr. Shalini Sobti, Professor & Head, Department of Community Medicine; Dr. Ajay Puri, Professor & Head, Department of Biochemistry; Dr. Jyoti Kohli, Professor & Head, Department of Microbiology; Dr. Rakesh Sadhu, Professor & Head, Department of Anesthesiology; Ankita Sharma, Deputy Director Planning, and other faculty members and demonstrators from various departments.