

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

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

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Omar dons the 'Crown of Thorns'

Surinder Kumar is Dy CM; Sakina Itoo, Satish Sharma, Javaid Dar, Javaid Rana Ministers; Rousing reception, guard of honour presented to CM at Civil Secretariat, chairs meeting with officers; First Cabinet meet Likely today

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 16

National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah was Wednesday sworn in as the first Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory. Omar was administered the oath of office and secrecy by J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in a high-profile ceremony at the iconic SKICC on the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar.

Along with Omar, Surinder Chowdhary was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of J&K while Satish Sharma and Javaid Rana, both from Jammu region, were also sworn in as the Cabinet Ministers. This shows that Omar has focused on Jammu region by inducting Surinder Choudhary as the Deputy CM besides Javaid Rana and Javaid Dar, who also belong to Jammu region. From Kashmir, two ministers were administered the oath—Sakina Itoo and

Javaid Dar.

J&K got an elected government after a decade. In J&K, the last Assembly polls were held in 2014. On August 5, 2019, BJP led government at the Centre revoked Article 370 and sliced the erstwhile State of J&K into two UTs—J&K and Ladakh.

Top leadership of INDIA Block attended the oath ceremony that include Congress leader and Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi, AICC Chief Malakarjun Kharge and party General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Samajwadi Party leader Akhlesh Yadav. Many other leaders from the INDIA Bloc also attended the oath ceremony on the invitation of NC chief Dr Farooq Abdullah.

The recently held Assembly polls saw NC emerging as a single largest party that bagged 42 seats on its own. NC got support from the

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Bridging regional divide

Big responsibility on my shoulders, challenging to fill vacuum of 10 years says Dy CM Surinder Chowdhary



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 16

Deputy Chief Minister of J&K UT Surinder Chowdhary Wednesday said that a big responsibility has been put on his shoulders and that it was challenging to fill the ten years of vacuum in just five years.

As per news agency, talking to reporters after taking the oath as Deputy Chief Minister of J&K, Chowdhary who defeated

BJP J&K chief Ravinder Raina from Nowshera constituency, said: "I have been allotted the Deputy CM's portfolio which is a big responsibility on my shoulders. I will try to fulfil my responsibility to the best of my capabilities. It is very difficult to fill the vacuum of the past 10 years. I have full faith in the leadership of CM Omar Abdullah and hope to serve the

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J&K CM Omar's first order to Police Chief 'No green corridor for my movement'

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 16

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday spoke to Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat and asked him to ensure that there is no green corridor and stoppage of traffic during his movement.

In his first post on X,

after being sworn in as the first CM of the J&K UT, Omar said: "have spoken to the DG @JmuKmrPolice that there is to be no green corridor or traffic stoppage when I move anywhere by road. I have instructed him to minimise public inconvenience & the use of sirens is to be minimal. The use of any stick waving or aggressive

gestures is to be totally avoided. I'm asking my cabinet colleagues to follow the same example. In everything our conduct must be people friendly. We are here to serve the people & not to inconvenience them."

Earlier, Omar had stated that by selecting Deputy Chief Minister from Jammu, he has fulfilled

his promise of giving due representation to Jammu people. While Omar was sworn in as the CM of J&K UT, MLA Nowshera Surinder Choudhary who defeated J&K BJP chief Ravinder Raina, was administered the oath of Deputy CM of J&K. MLA Damhal Hanjipora Sakina Itoo, MLA Mendhar

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Had promised due representation to Jammu region, fulfilled my promise by giving them Dy CM: Omar Abdullah

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 16

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday said that he had promised that he won't let Jammu people feel that they have no representation in the government and in the today's swearing in ceremony, he has fulfilled his promise.

"I fulfilled my promise by choosing Deputy CM from Jammu. I had promised that Jammu people should not feel that they are not part of the government. Deputy CM from Jammu a clear message to Jammu people that we are going to take them along," Omar told reporters after taking oath as the first CM of J&K UT, as per news agency.

He said that there are three cabinet posts still vacant which will also be filled shortly. Representing Jammu region, MLA Nowshera Surinder Choudhary was sworn in



as Deputy CM of J&K UT. MLA Mendhar Javaid Rana was also administered oath as the Minister while as an independent

MLA from Chamb, who extended his support to NC, Satish Sharma, was also sworn in as the minister in Omar's cabinet. KNO

PM Modi, Rajnath, Rahul among others congratulate Omar for taking oath as J&K CM

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 16

Several top leaders in India including the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday congratulated National Conference (NC) Vice President, Omar Abdullah for taking oath as the first chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

The top leaders, who congratulated Omar Abdullah through the social media posts include Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convener Arvind Kejriwal.

In a post on X, PM Modi said that the centre will work closely

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4



J&K govt formation: A closer look at Omar Abdullah-led 5-member cabinet squad

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 16

National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah took the oath as the first Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) on Wednesday, after the revocation of the region's statehood and its division into two separate UTs in 2019.

With this political success, Omar marks a return to leadership after a break, having previously served as Chief Minister

from 2009 to 2014, when Jammu and Kashmir was still a state.

In his new cabinet, Omar, as per the news agency selected a blend of politicians and newcomers, with representation from both Kashmir and Jammu regions.

The following leaders were sworn in alongside him in the new alliance government:

Surinder Kumar Choudhary - Deputy Chief Minister
Surinder Kumar Choudhary, representing the

Nowshera constituency in the Jammu region was appointed as Deputy Chief Minister. He won against the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) candidate Ravinder Raina, also the BJP's J&K head, by a margin of 7,819 votes. Choudhary received 35,069 votes compared to Raina's 27,250.

From Nowshera assembly constituency, a total of 8 nominations were filed, of which only 5 were contesting, while 3 were rejected.

Javaid Ahmad Dar - Cabi-

net Minister Javid Ahmad Dar, representing the Rafiabad constituency in north Kashmir, was sworn in as a cabinet minister. He secured his seat with 28,783 votes, followed by Yawar Ahmad Mir from the Apni Party, who garnered 19,581 votes.

In the Rafiabad assembly constituency, 14 nominations were submitted, with 12 candidates contesting and 2 being rejected.

Sakina Itoo - Cabinet Minister
Itoo, a senior
CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

GMC Anantnag organizes CME to commemorate 'World Anesthesia Day'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 16

Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag today organized a Continuing Medical Education (CME) program on the theme 'Anesthesia in Modern Perspective,' to mark 'World Anesthesia Day.' The programme was organized under the patronage of Principal/Dean Prof. (Dr.) Rukhsana Najeeb,

The CME witnessed a gathering of distinguished professors, department heads, faculty members, and students, including MS and Deputy MS of MMABM Associated Hospital, desk officers, and guest faculty from other renowned medical institutions.

Faculty members who shared their insights and presented scientific discussions included Dr. Mohd Ashraf Teli (Prof. Radiation Oncology), Dr. Zafar Iqbal (Associate Prof. Anesthesiology), Dr. Shayesta Ali (Associate Prof. Anesthesiology), Dr. Riyaz Malik (Consultant Anesthesiology), Dr. Khalida Mushtaq (Consultant Anesthesiology), Junaid Ahmad Dar (Consultant Anesthesiology), and Dr. Junaid Jeelani (Senior Resi-



dent Anesthesiology).

The occasion was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Rukhsana Najeeb as the chief guest, while Dr. Waseem Salman, Head of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, GMC Baramulla, served as the guest of honour. Dr. Andleeb Fazal and Dr. Mehak Shabir, both DNB Anesthesiology PG residents at GMC Anantnag, conducted the event as masterful comparers.

Prof. (Dr.) Rukhsana Najeeb, a revered anesthesiologist and critical care specialist, delivered an inspiring keynote address, sharing the historical evolution of anesthesiology and its roots in dentistry.

Prof. Najeeb highlighted the college's commitment to improving intensive

care services for critically ill patients at GMC Anantnag and expressed optimism about soon launching MD/MS programs in anesthesiology, which would elevate GMC Anantnag to the standards of the nation's prestigious medical colleges.

Earlier, the welcome address was delivered by Dr. Anjum Shamim, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Anesthesiology, GMC Anantnag, who also presented the vote of thanks, marking the end of the event.

Certificates of appreciation were awarded to dedicated doctors and supportive staff in recognition of their exemplary services toward patient care and academic contributions.

Strategic meeting held to boost Cooperative Societies in Jammu district

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 16

In a pivotal move aimed at strengthening cooperative societies in Jammu district, a high-level meeting of the Joint Working Committee was convened today at the DC Office Complex. The meeting, chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner, Sher Singh, saw participation from senior officials across departments, with the primary focus on expanding cooperative initiatives in uncovered Gram Panchayats.

The session, organised by Tasbina Sheikh, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Jammu, along with representatives from DDM NABARD, centred on the formation of new Multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (M-PACS), Dairy and Fishery Cooperatives. Officials from Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Rural Development Departments were present, with DDM NABARD outlining the district's role



in the National Cooperative Development Plan.

The meeting's agenda revolved around several critical points, including the identification of GPs that currently lack cooperative societies and the steps needed to mobilise their formation. A detailed discussion was held on liquidating defunct and dormant PACS to optimise the use of resources and strengthen existing cooperatives.

Key strategies to mobilise farmers for forming new cooperatives were also explored, aligning with the government's 'Sahakar se Samridhhi'

initiative, which aims to bolster rural prosperity through cooperative efforts. The formation of comprehensive business development plans (BDPs) for these new societies was a significant topic, aimed at establishing sustainable models in agriculture and allied sectors.

DDM NABARD provided an in-depth briefing on the National Plan for Cooperative Development, emphasising the key objectives for the district and the support available for cooperative structures. She underscored NABARD's commitment to achieving these targets within the

stipulated timeline.

In his address, the ADDC stressed the critical role of cooperatives in driving economic self-sufficiency in rural areas. He called for inter-departmental cooperation to ensure the success of these initiatives. The meeting concluded with an action plan outlining specific timelines for identifying uncovered areas, establishing new cooperative societies and liquidating non-functional ones. Additionally, the formulation of BDPs for each cooperative will be aligned with the Ministry of Cooperation's rural development objectives.

PD&SJ Ganderbal chairs UTRC meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 16

Principal District and Sessions Judge (PD&SJ) Ganderbal, Abdul Nasir today chaired Under-Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting at District Court Ganderbal.

The meeting took review of Under-Trial prisoners, who are eligible to be considered for release, as well as to accelerate the regular functioning of UTRC and review all eligible under-trial prisoners (UTPs).

The meeting was attended by Shyambir, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal; Wasim Qadri, Sr. Superintendent of Police Ganderbal; Nazir Ahmad Teli, DySP DAR Ganderbal; Shafat Ahmad, Chief Prosecuting Officer, Ganderbal; Irshad Ahmad, Officer Incharge Dignibal Ganderbal; Sajid Irfan, Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel Ganderbal, Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel Ganderbal as members of the UTRC.

Farmers imparted 2 day Training on Soil Health Management at Baba Jitto Kissan Kendra

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 16

A two day training programme aimed at enhancing the skills of farmers and rural youth was successfully held today at Baba Jitto Kissan Kendra, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo Jammu.

The Divisional Soil Survey Scheme Directorate of Agriculture Jammu organised Training programme for 50 numbers of farmers under "Capacity Building Programme" component of HADP Project no. 19 (Jammu and Kashmir Soil and Land Resource Information System) for the year 2024-25.

On the occasion, Director of Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, emphasized the crucial role of soil health management for sustainable food security in future generations. "Soil testing is vital to curtail the irrational use of chemicals and fertilizers," he stated, highlighting bio fertilizers and nano fertilizers as a promising alternative for enhancing soil health.

The Director Agriculture also announced that the Agriculture Department would provide drones to Women Self-Help Groups under the Namu Drone Didi Scheme. This initiative aims to facil-



itate the efficient spraying of fertilizers and pesticides, ultimately saving time and improving both soil health and employment opportunities for women farmers.

Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Satish Sharma underscored the significance of the training programme, while various experts shared their insights over the two days. Prof. Dr. Peeyush Sharma, Chief Scientist at the Advanced Horticulture Research Udheywala SKUAST-J, delivered a lecture on Sustainable Soil Health Management Practices, while other speakers included Aman Jyoti, who discussed the judicious use of fertilizers; Suresh Kumar Khajuria, Divisional Soil Survey Officer, who educated participants on the physical properties of soil; Neeraj Rajwal, Assistant Soil Chemist, who presented on the Soil Health Card Scheme; Dr. Aadil Rashid, Assistant Soil Survey Officer, who addressed land capabil-

ity classification and its importance in land management; and Hardeep Singh, District Level SMS, who explained the benefits of integrated nutrient management.

A practical demonstration on soil sample collection and packing was conducted during the field visit, and Soil Sample Kits were distributed to participants on the concluding day. Similar training programmes will be organized in the coming weeks across the remaining nine districts of the Jammu Division

The programme was attended Deputy Director (Central) Ashwani Sharma, Deputy Director (Trainings) Alok Pandotra, Divisional Soil Survey Officer Suresh Kumar Khajuria, Agronomist (VIS) Vikas Padha, Assistant Entomologist Rajesh Verma and Deputy Manager SBI Varun Sharma, among others. The event proceedings were conducted by Programme Officer, Rajeev Katoch.

JKACS holds CBS camp for injecting drug users at Village Karyani Talab Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 16

JKSPYM Targeted Intervention project for Injecting Drug Users (PWIDs) administered by Jammu and Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS), Deptt of Health and Medical Education under National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Ministry of Health and Family

Welfare, Govt of India today organised a CBS CAMP at Village Karyani Talab Jammu. CBS camp focuses on hard-to-reach and hidden HRGs who are outside the TI areas. To saturate the coverage, efforts were made to reach out to new populations and newer areas. The camp was organised with the help and presence of Sarpanch Smt.

Makhna Choudhary ji. Motive of the camp was to inform the masses about HIV/AIDS, STIs and OST. People were also informed about Hepatitis and its harms. IEC material was also distributed to the general and high risk population under the Intensified IEC Campaign. We urged everyone to practice safe sexual and injecting behaviours.

Block Diwas; DC Poonch listens to public issues at Ajote

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, OCTOBER 16

The District Administration Poonch, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, organized a Block Diwas outreach program here today at Ajote to address the local public issues. All Line Department Officers, senior district and sector officers were present at the Block Diwas venue to address grievances and ensure last mile connectivity.

During the public outreach programme, locals and people from the adjacent villages raised their issues and demands before the Deputy Commissioner.

The program aimed to enhance public outreach, with significant directions given by the Deputy Com-



missioner and other concerned heads to ensure the smooth implementation of development initiatives and the swift resolution of public issues of concern.

The Block Diwas events also featured discussions on the effective implementation of government schemes and initiatives aimed at improving local infrastructure and servic-

es. Directions were given for the timely completion of ongoing projects and for ensuring that benefits of welfare schemes reach the intended beneficiaries without delay.

Public health, education, and rural development were key focus areas, with officials emphasizing the importance of community involvement in these sectors.

Block Diwas: DDC Reasi assures tourism promotion, best medical, education services to Panchayat Porakotla

J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, OCTOBER 16

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan on Wednesday presided over the Block Diwas event at Panchayat Porakotla, TRC Ransoo, Block Pouni.

The event saw active participation from local residents, who raised several demands and issues of public importance like improved roads, staff shortage, power supply etc

In response to the community's concerns, DDC Mahajan assured the public that all genuine demands would be taken up with the relevant authorities for prompt action. He instructed sectoral officers to conduct special awareness and registration camps under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), employment initiatives, and other government schemes. He urged the locals to actively participate in these programs and take advantage of the opportunities available to them.



DDC directed the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to place two ambulances—one on the Ransoo track and another at the Primary Health Center (PHC) in Sangar—to ensure timely medical assistance in the area. He tasked Chief Education Officer (CEO) and District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) to inspect areas within a 20 km radius that currently lack high school facilities. They will move proposals for schools in the region to meet the region's educational needs.

Later, DDC Vishesh Mahajan inaugurated an animal husbandry First aid center at Ransoo. He also emphasised the potential of developing Gulzar Ikhan as a tour-

ist destination, which could significantly boost the region's economy. DC Mahajan also emphasized the importance of promoting the Guchhi mushroom trade. Additionally, the DDC instructed officials to verify BPL and APL ration cards to ensure that the benefits are reaching the right people.

The Block Diwas event provided a platform for direct interaction between the administration and the public. Event was attended by DDC Members, GM DIC Mohd Anwar Bandy, ACR Anshumali Sharma, ACD Pardeep Kumar, ASP Iftikhar and other concerned officers.

DDC Shopian reviews allotment of works under District Capex & PRI grants



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 16

District Development Commissioner (DDC), Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today chaired a meeting of District and Sectoral officers at Mini-Secretariat Shopian to review the District Capex and PRI Grants for the year 2024-25. The concerned apprised that 299 works under District Capex and 1616 works under PRI grants shall be taken up during the current financial year for execution. The DDC reviewed department-wise works with regards to preparation of estimates/ tender-

ing/ allotment and execution under district capex 2024-25 and PRI grants.

Majority of the works have been tendered out and allotted. The work on many of the works is ongoing and shall be completed promptly, apprised concerned.

Other works shall be taken up for execution immediately and weekly progress be intimated to the DDC office, instructed DDC to all officers involved in the implementation.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, District and Sectoral Officers were present in the meeting.

DC Poonch inspects operations at Govt Fruit Plant Nursery Ajote



J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, OCTOBER 16

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today visited the Government Fruit Plant Nursery Ajote to review the horticulture operations taken up under different developmental schemes.

CHO Sanjeev Kumar welcomed the Deputy Commissioner and briefed him about the horticultural initiatives in progress in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the cultivation structures like Pecan nut Mother block, Apple Ultra high density Mother Block (5 Kanal), Solar Panel, 20000 Litre Geo Tanks installed in GFPN Ajote. He appreciated the department's efforts and directed the Chief Horticulture Officer to promote Pecan nut Villages in the District.

The In charge of GFPN Ajote Horticulture Development Officer Poonch Rakesh Kumar was also present.

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2024

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

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

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS PASSING THROUGH NORTHERN RAILWAY NETWORK

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

09657	Daurai (via Barabanki Jn)	15:00	Barhni	13:25	Weekly	Saturday
09658	Barhni (via Barabanki Jn)	19:15	Daurai	19:20	Weekly	Sunday
03423	Bhagalpur	13:55	Haridwar Jn	17:55	Weekly	Monday
03424	Haridwar Jn	19:55	Bhagalpur	21:20	Weekly	Tuesday
05736	Katihar Jn	21:00	Amritsar Jn	09:45	Weekly	Wednesday
05735	Amritsar Jn	13:25	Katihar Jn	23:45	Weekly	Friday
05047	Banaras	22:00	Ghaziabad	11:45	Weekly	Tuesday
05048	Ghaziabad	12:35	Banaras	05:35	Weekly	Wednesday
02397	Gaya Jn	14:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:10	6 Days a week	Except Saturday
02398	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:20	Gaya Jn	00:30	6 Days a week	Except Sunday
05283	Muzaffarpur Jn	06:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
05284	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:00	Muzaffarpur Jn	04:50	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
02393	Patna Jn	20:10	New Delhi	12:10	6 Days a week	Except Thursday
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Patna Jn	07:00	6 Days a week	Except Friday
04123	Prayagraj Jn	14:30	Hazrat Nizamuddin	11:10	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday
04124	Hazrat Nizamuddin	15:50	Prayagraj Jn	09:00	Bi-weekly	Monday, Thursday
05193	Chhapra	14:00	Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan	22:10	Weekly	Saturday
05194	Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan	00:05	Chhapra	08:00	Weekly	Monday
02417	Prayagraj Jn	21:30	Delhi Jn	08:55	Weekly	Friday
02418	Delhi Jn	09:30	Prayagraj Jn	19:45	Weekly	Saturday
04145	Prayagraj Jn	21:30	Delhi Jn	08:55	Weekly	Thursday
04146	Delhi Jn	09:30	Prayagraj Jn	19:45	Weekly	Friday
02421	Subedarganj	21:35	Delhi Jn	08:55	Weekly	Sunday
02422	Delhi Jn	09:30	Subedarganj	19:40	Weekly	Monday
03309	Dhanbad Jn	10:10	Jammu Tawi	22:40	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Saturday
03310	Jammu Tawi	23:25	Dhanbad Jn	14:00	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday
09195	Vadodara Jn (via Varanasi Jn)	19:00	Mau Jn	20:45	Weekly	Saturday
09196	Mau Jn (via Varanasi Jn)	23:15	Vadodara Jn	00:45	Weekly	Sunday
09417	Ahmedabad Jn (via Varanasi Jn)	09:10	Danapur	20:30	Weekly	Monday
09418	Danapur (via Varanasi Jn)	23:50	Ahmedabad Jn	11:10	Weekly	Tuesday
09405	Sabarmati (via Lucknow)	18:10	Patna Jn	02:00	Weekly	Tuesday
09406	Patna Jn (via Lucknow)	05:00	Sabarmati	13:30	Weekly	Thursday
09525	Hapa (via Varanasi Jn)	00:40	Naharlagun	16:00	Weekly	Wednesday
09526	Naharlagun (via Varanasi Jn)	10:00	Hapa	00:30	Weekly	Saturday
09183	Mumbai Central (via Lucknow)	22:50	Banaras	10:30	Weekly	Wednesday
09184	Banaras (via Lucknow)	14:30	Mumbai Central	04:20	Weekly	Friday
09189	Mumbai Central (via Lucknow)	10:30	Katihar Jn	07:30	Weekly	Saturday
09190	Katihar Jn (via Lucknow)	00:15	Mumbai Central	18:40	Weekly	Tuesday
09111	Vadodara Jn (via Lucknow)	19:00	Goaakhpur	23:30	Weekly	Monday
09041	Udhna Jn (Surat) (via Lucknow)	11:15	Chhapra	19:00	Weekly	Sunday
09042	Chhapra (via Lucknow)	23:00	Udhna Jn (Surat)	07:30	Weekly	Monday
04815	Jodhpur Jn (via Lucknow)	17:30	Mau Jn	23:20	Weekly	Thursday
04816	Mau Jn					

Govt has to deliver on governance, also fight for restoration of what has been snatched from J&K People: NC MP Ruhullah

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 16

National Conference Member Parliament from Srinagar Syed Aga Ruhullah Mehdi Wednesday said there was no question of having any differences with the party leadership as he can't help rumour mongers from spreading rumours. He also said that two biggest challenges for the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah led government will be to deliver on the governance and to fight for the restoration of rights snatched from people on August 5, 2019.



"See, I can't help rumour mongers and stop them from spreading fake news. There is no question of any differences with the party leadership," he told reporters on the sidelines of the oath taking ceremony at SKICC, as per news agency.

About the biggest challenges for the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah led government, the NC MP said that the government will have to deliver and at the same time play the role of opposition. "Government has to oppose the policies of BJP and the decision taken on August 5, 2019. The government has to fight for the restoration of rights snatched from the people of J&K and at the same time deliver on the governance front," Ruhullah said.

About Congress staying away from the ministries, he said the party may

have decided not to join the ministry but it is very much part of the government. "This may be the internal decision of Congress but they are part of the government. They may not be part of the Cabinet but they are very much part of the government," the NC MP said, adding that NC won't poke nose in the internal affairs of Congress.

Ruhullah said that INDIA alliance be that in Kashmir of rest of the country, have to fight for the peoples rights and to strengthen the secular ideas. KNO

Govt appoints Nasir Aslam Wani as advisor to chief minister



J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 16

Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday appointed senior National Conference leader Nasir Aslam Wani as advisor to chief minister Omar Abdullah.

The decision was taken hours after Omar Abdullah took oath as the first chief minister of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

As per an order, a copy of which lies with the news agency, Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, said, "Nasir Aslam Wani is hereby appointed as advisor to the chief minister.

The terms and conditions of the appointment shall be notified separately." KNO

Cong decides not to join council of ministers in J&K, cite delay in Statehood restoration

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 16

After extending support to the Omar Abdullah led government in Jammu and Kashmir, Congress on Wednesday decided not to join the council of ministers for sometime as a mark of protest against the delay in restoration of Statehood.

As per statement, the Pradesh Congress Committee President, Tariq Hameed Karra as per the news agency, said that as the restoration of statehood promised by the government has not been fulfilled yet, the party is

unhappy over the delay and "therefore, we are not joining the ministry at the moment," he said.

In a statement, Karra said that the Congress has strongly demanded from the Centre to restore statehood to J-K, besides Prime Minister Narendra Modi has time and again in public meetings promised the same.

He added that the Congress party would carry on the fight for the restoration of statehood to J&K.

Meanwhile, the PCC leaders, wishing anonymity, told KNO that the Congress has taken

a stand over the delay in restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir as promised by the government.

However, they informed that the decision of taking oath as council of minister by any elected Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) will be taken after the elections in Maharashtra are over.

"At present, there has been no decision from the leadership in this regard, but it is expected to be taken once the elections in Maharashtra concludes," one of the leaders said. KNO

Will end sufferings of people from both regions of J&K: Farooq Abdullah

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 16

National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said that the new government in Jammu and Kashmir will put an end to the sufferings of people from both the regions.

Speaking with reporters, Farooq Abdullah, as per the news agency, said that the government will



treat both the regions equally and will also end the sufferings of people.

Earlier, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah took oath as chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, becoming the first chief minister of the Union Territory.

Five ministers—Sakina Itoo, Javed Dar, Javed Rana, Surinder Choudhary, and Satish Sharma also took the oath. KNO

PM Modi, Rajnath, Rahul among others congratulate Omar for taking oath as J&K CM

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 16

Several top leaders in India including the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday congratulated National Conference (NC) Vice President, Omar Abdullah for taking oath as the first chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

The top leaders, who congratulated Omar Abdullah through the social media posts include Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convener Arvind Kejriwal.

In a post on X, PM Modi said that the centre will work closely with him and his team for J&K's progress.

"Congratulations to Shri Omar Abdullah Ji on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. Wishing him the very best in his efforts to serve the people. The



Centre will work closely with him and his team for J&K's progress. @OmarAbdullah," Modi said on X.

Meanwhile, Omar in a reply to Prime Minister said that he look forward to working together with him to give the people of J&K an effective, efficient & honest administration

"Thank you very much @narendramodi Sb for your message of congratulations. My colleagues & I look forward to working together with you to give the people of J&K an effective, efficient & honest administration," Omar wrote

Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh hoped that the governance trajectory of the state continues to move forward and his gov-

ernment is able to fulfil people's aspirations.

"Congratulations to Shri @OmarAbdullah on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. I hope, the governance trajectory of the state continues to move forward and his government is able to fulfil people's aspirations. My best wishes for a fruitful tenure," Rajnath Singh said. Rahul Gandhi in a post said that the government formation without statehood felt incomplete today.

"Congratulations to CM Omar Abdullah and to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. However, government formation without statehood felt incomplete today. Democracy was snatched from

the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and today we renew our pledge to continue our fight until statehood is fully restored," Rahul Gandhi wrote.

AAP national convener, Arvind Kejriwal wished him all success in his efforts to serve the people. "Congratulations to @OmarAbdullah Ji on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. I wish him all success in his efforts to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir," the post reads.

Mamta Banerjee in a post said, "I congratulate Mr. Omar Abdullah @OmarAbdullah on his being sworn in as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir today. This is his second stint at the helm of the public life in the State, but the juncture today is more historic. I welcome his triumphal return through the elections, which truly constitute the greatest festival of democracy. I congratulate the real architects of the festival, i. e. the people of Jammu and Kashmir, in this festive moment of theirs."

Pawan Verma awarded with prestigious Kunwar Viyogi Sahitya Puraskar 2024

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 17

Pawan Verma, a young Dogri Writer was awarded with prestigious Kunwar Viyogi Sahitya Puraskar 2024. The award ceremony, held at Dogri Sanstha Jammu, was a part of the 9th annual Kunwar Viyogi Utsav to celebrate the life and works of the Sahitya Akademi Awardee, Kunwar Viyogi- often referred to as the Father of Dogri Sonnets'.

Prof. B S Sahay, Founder Director of IIM Jammu, who was chief guest on the occasion, presented Kunwar Viyogi Sahitya Puraskar to pawan verma, in the presence of Kunwar Viyogi Memorial Trust Founder, Poonam Singh Jamwal, KVMT Chairman Goverdhan Singh Jamwal



and prominent literatures. On the occasion, Prof. Lalit Magotra, prominent writer and president of Dogri Sanstha Jammu, was awarded with Life Time Achievement award-2024. Annual Prem Jamwal Art and Innovation award-2024 was presented to India's first all-girls Dogri band. The Dogra Girls Vocalists Kriti Singh, Cherish Banhotra and Kashika Bassi, for their Dogri song

Kunjua, composed and directed by renowned Dogri music director and singer Jitender Singh Jamwal. Programme was beautifully anchored by Prominent Dogri Writer & Dogri News Reader Promila Manhas.

Pawan Verma is a young Dogri writer, Theatre Artist & Dogri News Reader in A.I.R & Doordarshan. Born in Oct 1983, Pawan belongs to Mubarak

Mandi in the heart of city, Jammu. He has adopted this cultural race without any family background. He is doing Theatre from last 24 years and acted in over 80 plays which were performed more than 700 times through-out the country and abroad too. He has participated in more than 40 National & International Theatre Festivals. For his outstanding performance in the Art, Culture & Literature, he has honoured with many awards: J&K State Award -2024 by J&K Govt., Prof. Rannath Shastri Memorial Award-2024, Kabir Samman-2023, International Excellence Award-2022, Mahatma Gandhi Seva Puraskar-2020, & Junior Fellowship by Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India etc.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Omar dons the...

four independent MLAs from Jammu region plus it also had CI(M's) one seat in its kitty as well. Congress that fought along with NC in pre-poll alliance also extended support of its six seats to NC pushing the total tally of seats up to 53.

In Jammu, BJP dominated the scene by winning 29 seats. However, the number was far less from what was needed to form the government. In Kashmir, BJP failed to see Lotus bloom as the party couldn't win even a single seat.

On Friday, Omar got letters of support from four independents and Congress after which he visited Rajbhawan to present the same and to stake the claim on government formation. On Sunday late evening, President Doupadu Murmu issued a notification to revoke the presidents' rule in J&K paving way for the elected government to take a shape in the UT.

On Monday, LG Sinha invited Omar to form the government in J&K on October 16. NC chief Dr Farooq had extended invitations to over 50 dignitaries of INDIA Block of which many attended the Oath ceremony. The Chief Minister visited the Civil Secretariat in the afternoon where he was given a rousing reception and traditional guard of honour. He also chaired the meeting of officers of the administration.

Sources said that Omar will chair the first Cabinet meeting of the new government tomorrow at the Civil Secretariat. What remains to be seen whether the first Cabinet would pass the resolution seeking restoration of Statehood to J&K as promised by Omar. KNO

Bridging regional...

people of Jammu region even though the task is full of challenges."

He said the decision to take oath as the Deputy CM of J&K came to him as a big surprise. "I was informed about the development at SKICC only," Choudhary said.

Choosing Choudhary for the post of Deputy CM is being seen as NC's clever move to bridge the divide between Kashmir and Jammu regions.

Speaking to reporters, NC minister Sakina Itoo said

she will leave no stone unturned to serve the people of J&K. "People have reposed trust in us and we have to serve them," she said. Asked what would be the first step of the new Cabinet, she said let the Cabinet meeting take place, things will be clear

Javaid Dar, who won from Rafiabad seat, said that people will be his first priority. "We will have to work together and stay united for the development of J&K," he said.

Satish Sharma, who won the Chamb Assembly seat in Jammu, said that he has gone beyond his expectations. "I am thankful to the Almighty that I will be working under the leadership of a secular leader. My priorities will be to promote tourism in my area, address the issues of Agniveers and resolve the peoples issues as my area falls in the border area," he said.

He said that Omar has shown magnanimity by choosing Surinder Choudhary as the deputy Chief minister. "We will collectively work and ensure that Jammu people feel no disparity," Sharma said. KNO

'No green corridor...

Javaid Rana, MLA Rafiabad Javaid Dar and MLA Chamb Satish Sharma were sworn in as the ministers of Omar led cabinet. KNO

PM Modi, Rajnath...

with him and his team for J&K's progress. "Congratulations to Shri Omar Abdullah Ji on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. Wishing him the very best in his efforts to serve the people. The Centre will work closely with him and his team for J&K's progress. @OmarAbdullah," Modi said on X.

Meanwhile, Omar in a reply to Prime Minister said that he look forward to working together with him to give the people of J&K an effective, efficient & honest administration

"Thank you very much @narendramodi Sb for your message of congratulations. My colleagues & I look forward to working together with you to give the people of J&K an effective, efficient & honest administration," Omar wrote

J&K govt formation...

leader of the NC from Damhal-Hanjipora in south Kashmir's Kulgam district also took the oath as a cabinet minister. She won her seat, securing 36,623 votes and defeating her closest competitor, Gulzar Ahmed Dar of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), by a margin of 17,449 votes.

People urged to use public transport to minimize traffic congestion

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 16

In view of ongoing festival season and notable congestion due to the construction/widening work on NHW, general public has been appealed to adopt alternate transport options such as public transport, carpooling etc. to avoid jamming at the crowded locations of NHW/other places till the culmination of festival season. Wrong, improper parking particularly at the crowded places is a major concern and cause of congestion leading to obstruction in the operation of emergency services and disruption in the flow of Traffic, said SSP Traffic Rural Jammu.

"Although, adequate action against the wrong parking is being taken by Traffic Rural, Jammu and over 12878 violations have been booked during the current year on the account of wrong parking, (Overall 116153 challans enforced and fine amounting to Rs.

11,35,27,300/- imposed on the violators) co-operation of general public in this connection is mandatory to prevent disruption of traffic flow especially during the ongoing festival season" a handout issued by the SSP Traffic Rural stated.

It further appealed to General public to utilize earmarked parking spaces and avoid blocking driveways or access points adding that in case of the non-availability of the parking space, the vehicle should be parked in such a way that flow of traffic is not interrupted.

The office of SSP further observed that negligent approach of people towards the applicable cautionary signages visible on the road is also a cause of major concern which not only leads to disruption in the flow of traffic but also causes road accidents. "Public by large is appealed to strictly follow the applicable instructions such as speed limits, parking restriction, overtake restrictions to prevent any

mishap/disruption of the flow of traffic" he added.

"Encroachment of pathways by hawkers/shopkeepers particularly during the ongoing festival gave rise to apprehension of mishap and disruption of the flow of traffic. Shopkeepers/hawkers are appealed not to occupy pathways as the encroachment of pathways forces the pedestrians to walk on the road causing apprehension of mishap and disruption of the flow of traffic", it maintained.

The department said that over 60 thousand challans of Traffic Rural, Jammu are pending before the various Courts including notable number of challans pertaining to the year 2022 and 2023. Through the medium Press, concerned owner/violators are appealed to dispose of these challans to avert punitive action under law. For any assistance in this connection, they may contact E-challaning Section of Traffic Rural, Jammu on mobile No. 96223-49183.

DC Kulgam reviews Power sector RDS scheme



J1NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, OCTOBER 16

In order to assess the progress of ongoing works under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), a meeting was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan here at Mini-secretariat, here.

During the meeting, the DC expressed concern over the slow pace of work and instructed concerned to intensify their efforts to meet the project deadlines.

A key focus was placed on the timely availability of essential materials. TKC was directed to ensure that critical items such as poles, LT Aerial Bundled Cable (ABC), and Distribution Transformers (DTs) are stocked at the

store without delay. A strong emphasis was laid on expediting progress across all areas to ensure the successful and timely completion of the project.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Bashir Ahmad Wani, JDP Zahid Sajjad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Executive Engineers, representatives of POWERGRID and the Turnkey Contractor (TKC).

J&KAKA announced Sub Committees for Promotion of Kabaddi

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 16

General Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir Amateur Kabaddi Association Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Gupta under the guidance of President Mr. Anil Gupta who is a friend, Philosopher and Guide has created another step and idea to work as kabaddi family and promote Swadeshi Khel-Khel Kabaddi in each nook and corner of Jammu & Kashmir UT and search young Kabaddi budding talent particularly from rural areas as people of border and rural area love to play Swadeshi Khel-Khel Kabaddi. He also stressed to all Kabaddi Family members to motivate the MLAs, District Development Council Member, Block Development Council Member, Sarpanches, Panches to adopt and Sponsor their

area's Kabaddi team in Boys and Girls Section of their areas.

The detail of members who have a rich experience in their fields have been nominated as Subcommittee Chairman, Convener, Co Convener and Member of the committee.

The Details of the committee are as under: Technical Committee- 1. Chairman Sh. Ajay Gupta Convener- Sh. Mir Alam Referees Board 2. Chairman Sh. Anil Gupta Convener- Sh. Sanjeet Kumar Disciplinary Committee- 3. Chairman Sh. Bhopinder Singh Tirthi Convener- Sh. Vijay Dhar Constitution Committee- 4. Chairman Sh. Anil Padha Convener- Sh. Ajay Bharti Anti Doping Committee- 5. Chairman Sh. Sandeep Singh Convener- Mrs. Sweetie Joshi 6. Women Commission- Ms. Radha Bakshi Conve-

ner- Ms. Bandana Sharma Co-Convener- Mrs. Neelam Samyal Member- Ms. Mithali Manhas Beach Style Committee- 7. Chairman Sh. A. R. Ahanger Convener- S. Ravinder Singh Circle Style Committee- 8. Chairman Sh. Mohd. Yakooob Convener- S. Jasdev Singh Rules Committee- 9. Chairman Sh. Anil Sharma Convener- Sh. Vinod Kumar Program Committee- 10. Chairman Sh. Ashok Kumar Convener- Sh. Krishan Singh Development Committee- 11. Chairman Sh. Basharat Khan Convener- S. Ravinder Singh Ethics Committee- 12. Chairman Sh. Nazir Ahmed Convener- Sh. Shiv Kumar Sharma Yuva Talent Search Committee- 13. Chairman Sh. Sheikh Mohd. Shafi Technical Director- Surinder Mohan- Yuva Kabaddi Series (J&K and Ladakh)

Inter Division UT Level Volleyball Tournament for U/17 & 19 Girls takes off at Samba

J1NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, OCTOBER 16

The District Youth Services and Sports Office Samba today announced the successful commencement of the Inter Divisional UT Level Volleyball Tournament for Under-17 & 19 yrs Girls. The grand event is being held at the iconic Rani Suchet Singh Sports Stadium under the supervision of DYSSO Dharmvir Singh. The Chief Guest, Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Sharma along with Guest of Honour ADC Jagdish Singh and other officials graced the event.

A pledge was also taken to take maximum inspiration for sports and abstain from Drugs. The competition, spanning a diverse array of competitions, pro-



vides an unparalleled platform for budding athletes to exhibit their prowess and compete at a grassroots level. This initiative not only promotes physical fitness but also inculcates values of teamwork, discipline, and resilience among the participants.

The tournament witnessed enthusiastic par-

ticipation of over 24 Girls Players from Jammu Division & Kashmir Division.

The District Youth Services and Sports Officer Samba extends its heartfelt congratulations to all the participants. Their dedication and sportsmanship exemplify the spirit of the tournament.

Power shutdown

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 16

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Parade, Civil Sectt, Director Health Services, Ayurvedic College, SMGS Hospital and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 17 from 7.30 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Air Force, Battalion Ballian, Dhar Road, Sangoor (MES) & Cherry Sial will remain affected on October 17 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Chatha Mill, Chatha Pind, Brij Nagar, SKUAST, Chatha Bhour, Lower Gadigarh, Dharap, Indranagar, Sudan Heart Care, Airport and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 18 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Sataney, Pathi, Dairy Farm, Sudhmahadev, Dhuna, Jhonu, Chowki, Majouri and Basantgarh will remain affected on October 19 and 21 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Pancheri, Meer, Lander Meer Katti, Mongri, Pathi, Mansar, Railway and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 17, 19 and 21 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Ansal, Birpur and its adjoining areas will remain affected on October 17 and 19 from 7 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Smailpur and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 21 from 7 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Meen and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 17 and 19 from 7 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Badhori and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 18 and 20 from 7 am to 1 pm.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI MECH. G.W.D. DIVISION JAMMU SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

E-NIT NO GWD/94 OF 2024-25 DATED 15.10.2024

On behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu invites tenders by e-tendering mode from reputed and registered firms with Jal Shakti PHE/I&FC Deptt. J&K Govt. who have sufficient experience in the field of drilling and are well equipped with drilling Rigs suitable for ODEX method of drilling.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee (In Rs)	Qty.	Estimated cost (value of work) (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Validity of Rates
Deep Drilling of 125 mm dia Bore Hole by using ODEX method and Providing / installation, testing, commissioning of submersible pump including allied electro-mechanical works at District Programme Officer Poshan (ICDS) Udhampur Near CEO Office Dandyal Udhampur on Turnkey Basis (EPC) under Deposit 2024-25	Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu	500.00 (Non-Refundable) Deposited in Govt. treasury through e-challan under the receipt head 0215 in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. GWD Div. Jammu payable at Jammu mentioning name of work	01 No.	Rs. 530000.00	@ 2% of the contract value in shape of Fresh CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PHE (M) GWD Division	31 st March 2025

- The complete bidding process shall be online.
- Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 15.10.2024 to 23.10.2024.
- The pre bid meeting if desired by the participating firms shall be held in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 16.10.2024 (1300 hrs).
- The bids shall be submitted/uploaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 16.10.2024 (1400 hrs) to 23.10.2024 (1800 hrs).p GWD/3697-99 DATED: 15.10.2024

DIP/J-5661/24
Date: 16-10-24

Musaif Ajaz at murderous best, scores scintillating 297; J&K-Delhi match ends in a draw

J1NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCT 16

Talented top-order batsman Musaif Ajaz was at his murderous best in his spectacular 297 runs, smashing bowlers all around Jamia Milia Islamia ground, hitting 25 fours and 10 massive sixes in his 328-ball knock. The unfortunate opposition was formidable Delhi and a small number of lucky spectators were from Jammu and Kashmir, who enjoyed cheering each and every bit of his knock in the ongoing Men's U-23 Col CK Nayudu Trophy at Nawab Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi Complex, here today. He completed his century with a big six and reached 150 with another massive hit out of the park. Solidity, sublimity, fluidity, elegance, radiance and brilliance was evident in his charismatic innings.

The knock was more special because J&K were tottering at 29/4 in their second essay after conceding 37-run first innings lead to Delhi.

Then Musaif and Arnav Gupta showed grit and



guts and took the score to 311 runs, thus making a partnership of 287 runs, before Arnav was dismissed at his individual score of masterclass 98 runs off 216 balls with 8 fours and one six.

After Arnav's dismissal, explosive Arya Thakur struck some fireworks in his power-packed knock of 66 off 58 balls with 5 fours and 3 sixes, thus enabling J&K to make a huge total of 482/8 in 112.2 overs.

For Delhi, medium pacers Divij Mehra and Akhil Choudhary took 2 wickets each, while Rounak Waghela, Arpit Rana, Mayank Gussain and Priyansh Arya claimed one wicket each.

Earlier, J&K after elect-

ing to bat had scored 350 in their first innings with Qamran Iqbal scoring magnificent 147 runs and Musaif Ajaz (45), Arya Thakur (44) and Qazi Junaid emerging as other major contributors.

Rounak Wagela took 4 wickets for Delhi and Divij Mehra claimed three.

Dehi, in reply, scored 387 runs in their first innings. Mayank Gussain (89), skipper Hardik Sharma (83), Ayush Boseja (76) and Arpit Rana (55) were the main scorers.

For Jammu and Kashmir, spinners Vishal Kumar and Janib Javaid captured 4 wickets each, while Mujtaba Yousuf claimed one wicket.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION THATHRI NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh e-NIT NO. 22 OF 2024-25

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on **Percentage Rate** basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Government for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)	Earnest Money	Cost of document	Time of completion (in days)	Date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
01	Link road from Badanoo to chiba via dabranoo. (Under district Sector)	25.00	50000	600	90 days	On or after 22/10/2024 at 12:30 PM	A, B, C
02	Link Road Hirani Bhara village 150 mtr (under Distict Plan)	5.78	11560	600	60 days	On or after 22/10/2024 at 12:30 PM	A, C, D

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14/10/2024
2	Period of Downloading of bidding documents	From 14/10/2024 (1600 Hrs.) to 21/10/2024, (1600 Hrs.)
3	Bid Submission Start Date	14/10/2024
4	Bid Submission End Date	21/10/2024, (1600 Hrs.)
5	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids (Online)	22/10/2024 on or after 1230 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Thathri.
6	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after Technical bid evaluation is completed

No:- EE/PWD/DT/2024-25/2932-48
Dated:- 14/10/2024

DIP/J-5646/24
Date: 16-10-24

Sd/-
(Er. Shamis Din)
Executive Engineer,
PWD (R&B) Division,
Thathri.

EDITORIAL

Migration issue polarises Canada ahead of 2025 election

AMAL CHANDRA AND AJAY P KARUVALY

Renewing the Global Commitment to End Poverty

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, observed annually on October 17, serves as a reminder that despite global progress in several fields, poverty remains one of humanity's most persistent challenges. This day is not merely symbolic—it urges governments, civil society, and citizens to renew their commitment to addressing inequality, exclusion, and the deprivation that continues to plague millions across the globe.

Poverty today goes beyond the absence of income. It encompasses a range of factors—poor access to education, healthcare, safe housing, and basic human rights. Recent global events, including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and geopolitical conflicts, have intensified these vulnerabilities, driving millions back into poverty after years of progress. According to the World Bank, over 700 million people still live on less than \$2.15 per day, with many more struggling just above this line.

Countries across Africa, South Asia, and Latin America bear the brunt, but even in wealthier nations, inequality has worsened. Rising inflation, unemployment, and food insecurity threaten to widen the gap between the rich and the poor, eroding the hope of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1—No Poverty by 2030.

Ending poverty requires more than temporary aid. It demands structural reforms—investments in quality education, universal healthcare, decent employment, social protection schemes, and climate resilience. The focus must shift from charity to empowerment, ensuring that marginalized communities, particularly women, children, and indigenous groups, have equal access to opportunities.

Governments, international organizations, and the private sector must align their efforts to reduce inequality by designing inclusive policies. Effective social safety nets, living wages, and access to affordable housing are crucial components of the fight against poverty. In the face of rising challenges, multilateral cooperation has never been more critical. Wealthy nations and institutions must offer meaningful financial and technological support to developing economies to close the poverty gap.

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty also highlights the importance of human dignity and participation. Poverty is not just about statistics; it's about real people—families without food, children denied education, and workers exploited without fair wages. Those experiencing poverty must not be treated as passive recipients of aid but as active participants in shaping solutions.

Public awareness and community participation are essential to achieving meaningful change. Addressing poverty is everyone's responsibility, from governments to individuals. Small acts—supporting local economies, volunteering, and promoting equality—can create ripple effects in building a fairer world.

The road to eradicating poverty is long and filled with challenges, especially with the growing uncertainties of climate change and conflicts. However, the progress made in recent decades—lifting millions out of poverty and improving healthcare and literacy—proves that change is possible. But time is running out. If the world is to meet its goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030, bold action must replace mere promises.

On this International Day, we are reminded that poverty is not an inevitable outcome. It is a problem created by human systems—and it is within our collective power to end it. The journey towards a poverty-free world begins with the realization that every individual deserves dignity, opportunity, and hope.

Canada has recently cut down on international student permits and tightened eligibility for work permits in a bid to cut down on the number of temporary residents. As the federal election approaches in October 2025, immigration remains the most contentious issue in Canadian politics. "Immigration is an advantage for our economy—but when bad actors abuse the system and take advantage of students, we crack down." Said Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in a post on X. However, things are a little more complicated. Canada presents a unique case of population dynamics, with rapid growth despite record-low birth rates. Between 2023 and 2024, Canada's population surged by 3.2 per cent, outpacing even some African nations known for their high population growth. While the population is increasing rapidly, the total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.33 children per woman in 2022 was the lowest in Canadian history. Canada's population growth, despite a very low TFR, is a testament to the power of immigration. In 2023, 97.6 per cent of the growth in the Canadian population came through immigration.

This reliance on immigrants is a long-standing strategy to offset the country's ageing population. While the COVID-19

pandemic temporarily slowed population growth to just 0.4 per cent in 2021, immigration quickly rebounded, fuelling a rapid recovery in population growth. A significant portion of Canada's immigrants come from India, making up 10.8 per cent of all immigrants in 2023. The proportion of Indians among all the immigrant groups entering the country has increased from 9.6 per cent between 1991 and 2000, to 18.6 per cent between 2016 and 2021. Projections for the period between 2022 and 2026 suggest this trend will continue to accelerate.

Canada's Immigration Dilemma:

Canada's immigration system comprises four main programs: economic, family, refugee, and temporary work. The first three lead to permanent residency, while temporary workers must follow specific pathways with quotas and criteria to attain permanent residency. The preferred route for international students is the Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP), which is issued to foreign students who have completed a diploma or degree at a Canadian institution.

This permit allows them to qualify for permanent residency programs. While all immigration programs have grown, the 127 per cent surge in international student permits issued in 2023 compared to 2006 is particularly remarkable. A 2015 study

showed that between 20 per cent and 27 per cent of international students transitioned to permanent residency within ten years of receiving their first study permit. This conversion rate is likely even higher in more recent years, reflecting the growing appeal of Canada as a destination for long-term settlement through the student migration route.

Economic Growth or Illusion? The influx of immigrants and their economic activity has fuelled Canada's GDP growth (1.8 per cent average from 2000 to 2023), but population growth is masking underlying economic challenges. The GDP per capita rate for the same period from 2000 to 2023 is only 0.7 per cent, among the lowest in the G7. The Canadian economy and the living standards of its population have largely stagnated over the last decade.

While immigrants are contributing to economic growth, the GDP per capita rates are declining. Many new immigrants earn less than the national average, and there are doubts about their ability to achieve upward mobility as rapidly as past generations of immigrants, especially given that the majority are temporary residents.

The Government's Immigration Gamble: To course-correct a stagnant economy and compensate for poor growth rates, Canadian policymakers have made a bet

on immigration. By letting in massive numbers of permanent and temporary residents, Canada has prioritised short-term growth, in hopes this can translate to a sustainable long-term growth strategy through the upward mobility of the recently introduced immigrant cohorts. While it may be too early to say this is not working, Canadian public opinion against immigration is at an all-time low. Many Canadians feel the rapid influx of immigrants is exacerbating critical issues like the housing shortage and the strain on social services, including healthcare and emergency response. Despite placing their hopes on immigration, the government has failed to make parallel investments in infrastructure to support both immigrants and the existing population.

Wages in Canada have struggled to keep pace with inflation and there is rising concern among Canadians that immigrants are suppressing wages. Although evidence suggests that immigrants have little to no impact on the average wages of native workers, the perception of such effects tends to fuel stronger anti-immigration sentiments. Corporations, however, have capitalised on this dynamic, employing temporary workers, including international students, in low-wage, precarious jobs. The promise of permanent residency keeps them in the system, even when working condi-

tions are poor. For corporations, this represents a windfall of cheap labour. Coincidentally, working these low-paying jobs means the immigrants are unlikely to undergo the upward social mobility the government is hoping they would. Rising Hostility and Public Sentiment As frustrations over the government's immigration policies mount, this frustration is being increasingly manifested as resentment toward immigrants themselves. Public sentiment has noticeably shifted in recent years, with more Canadians expressing negative views toward international students and other immigrants. While this is hard to quantify and prove, public sentiment analysis using machine learning models on social media platforms like Reddit provides a useful indication.

We analysed all the comments under posts containing the word "international students" in the r/Canada subreddit (community) from 2010 to 2022. While the r/Canada subreddit is not in any way a reflection of Canadian society, it could be a fair representation of a microcosm of Canadian centrist views on immigration. Till 2015, there was minimal discussion or negative sentiments related to international students (see figure below). Starting from around 2015, the number of negative comments saw a sharp rise. This trend peaks significantly after 2020, indicating a growing

negative discourse, especially in recent years. The number of positive comments seems to plateaued after 2017. Although positive sentiment persists, sentiment analysis reveals a shift in public discourse toward increasingly negative views on the broader issue of international students in recent years.

Conclusion: A Broken System For many international students and temporary immigrants, these growing negative sentiments could lead to increased hostility and more barriers to integration. Instances of food bank usage, cultural misunderstandings, and economic struggles may further inflame these tensions. Canada's immigration system, which lacks a strategic vision, seems to benefit neither Canadian citizens nor immigrants.

Without meaningful reforms, only corporations exploiting cheap labour will see long-term gains, while social unrest and economic stagnation will continue to grow. The future of Canada's immigration policy hinges on the ability of the government and its citizens to address the current challenges and find a path forward that benefits all residents.

(Chandra is an author, policy analyst and columnist and Ajay P Karuvaly is a Research Fellow at The International Institute of Migration and Development; views are personal)

Cleanliness and Spirituality

RAVIVALLURI

When I recall our college days, particularly the hostel rooms, it takes me on a nostalgic trip. The days were full of fun and frolic, books scattered around, beer and rum bottles lying randomly, with cigarette butts strewn rather carelessly. The rooms were full of stench.

Most of the guys would ogle, there was no Google back then, at the girls. Posters of Pink Floyd, the Beatles, and Led Zepelin populated the grubby and unwashed walls of the rooms. The politically inclined would paste large printed pictures of Che Guevara, Marx and Lenin among others, professing their ideological baggage unequivocally.

Some rooms were relatively cleaner and tidily kept. In our hail-fellow-well-met attitude we ended up ostracising such students. But they were our Gurus

during examination times, much to their chagrin. A close friend had put up a poster which read: "Cleanliness is the sign of a sick mind." His room was particularly unclean and stained.

Cleanliness is both the abstract state of being clean and free from dirt, and the process of achieving and maintaining that state. However, to my mind cleanliness and spirituality are intertwined like Siamese twins. The human mind normally slips into a state of meditation and involuntarily has a spiritual experience at places which are relatively clean. Cleanliness is positively next to godliness.

India has of late embarked upon a major cleanliness drive where villages, bijou towns, cities, rivers, among others, places of historical importance and important religious places are being refurbished. This is indeed a positive statement



made by the government. A gurdwara is the place of worship for Sikhs. People from all faiths and those who do not profess any faith too, are welcomed in Sikh gurdwaras. To me gurdwaras are among the cleanest spots in the country and it is a lesson in humility to observe how the devout keep it absolutely spick and span. The mind gravitates to the pristine spirit and listens to the soulful and mellifluous Gurubani being sung. The human mind, which is normally cannonaded by innumerable thoughts, gradually settles down and is at rest and peace.

It would be interesting to mention that Sri Harmandir Sahib and Sri Darbar Sahib are informally referred to as the Golden Temple. Guru Ram Das constructed the Golden Temple in 1577. He was the fourth Guru in the pantheon of Sikh Gurus.

A Sikh friend mentioned that a gurdwara is a community asset and serviced by unpaid and committed volunteers, those who perform seva from the kitchen to the shoe rack. Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of peace and non-violence, championed the cause of truth only as he could. His autobiography, The Story of My Experiments with Truth, like his life, documents every aspect where he does not dissemble anything. During my days of quotidian drinking, I drank heavily and

remained inebriated. In that state of arrogance and hubris, I walked into the holy precincts of the Golden Temple carrying a packet of Wills Navy Cut. The act was certainly sacrilegious. For perpetrating this sinful act, I could have been trolled on social media. Today, I regret the mistake committed and apologise sincerely from the depths of my heart. I am sober today because of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and have given up drinking, smoking and eating non-vegetarian fare. The twisted personality in me is making amends and I hope those afflicted with these vices seek the grace of a Guru to extricate themselves from this cesspool of negativity and embark upon the voyage to discover the quintessential quality of cleanliness and spirituality.

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

The divisive legacy of British colonialism: A persistent threat to India's unity

SHIV PRAKASH

The legacy of British colonialism in India remains a contentious issue, with far-reaching consequences that continue to impact the country's social fabric. In the contemporary context, this can be seen in the practice of politics by the opposition parties, particularly the Indian National Congress (INC).

The colonial era strategically exploited India's inherent social and cultural diversities, creating fault lines that persist today. These divisions, crafted to serve the interests of the British Empire, have become entrenched in India's societal landscape, posing a significant challenge to national unity. Post-1857, British authorities, scholars, and missionaries collaborated to divide Dalits, tribals and Muslims from the Hindu community. This agenda

leveraged scholars and missionaries to separate Dalits and tribals through conversion and social manipulation, as detailed in Arun Shourie's seminal work, "Missionaries in India."

By creating artificial distinctions and fueling social conflict, the British successfully fostered alliances and divisions that endured long after independence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently highlighted Congress's departure from its founding principles, embracing leftist ideologies instead. Modi cited Congress's original stance on issues like Swadeshi, Swavalamban, and Panchayat Raj, and Mahatma Gandhi's opposition to religious conversion and cow slaughter.

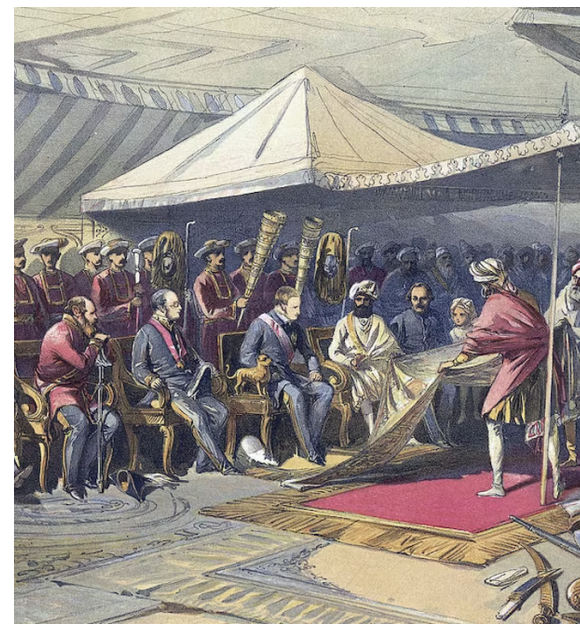
Gandhi's post-1920 emphasis on eradicating untouchability, casteism, alcoholism, and women's oppression, and promoting national unity, has

given way to divisive rhetoric. Congress's current leadership, exemplified by Rahul Gandhi, has strayed from these ideals.

Gandhi's recent US visit sparked controversy, as he claimed Sikhs face identity crises in India, despite no evidence. His comments fueled separatist sentiments among Khalistani supporters, echoing the tactics employed by British colonialists.

Meanwhile, in Sikh communities, Max Arthur Macauliffe sowed seeds of separation, as detailed in Khushwant Singh's "The Sikh Gurus, Sacred Writings and Authors." These foreign interventions fabricated logic, distorted literature, and spread misinformation to execute their divide-and-rule policy.

Gandhi's stance resonates with the British-era concept that India is not a nation but a union of states. This contradicts the ancient Indian ethos,



affirming India's nationhood. The Vedas proclaim, "Vayam Rashtra Jagryam Puraहितah" (We are the guardians of the nation). Even former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's wish to have his ashes immersed in the Ganges reflects his devotion to

Mother India. The British exploited these divisions, nurturing enduring fault lines evident in the Direct Action orchestrated by the Muslim League, resulting in the brutal massacre of 16,000 Hindus in Calcutta alone.

Notable figures like

Jaipal Singh Munda and Jogendra Nath Mandal eventually broke away from the Muslim League, recognising the sinister intentions. Mandal resigned from the Pakistan government and returned to India, highlighting the atrocities faced by Dalits and tribals.

Today, India must recognise and learn from this history, acknowledging the artificial divisions created by British colonialism and guarding against similar tactics employed by contemporary forces seeking to exploit these fault lines for political gain. Citizens and political parties must remain vigilant, prioritising national unity over sectarian interests.

The 1946 Jharkhand, Chota Nagpur Pakistan Conference and Jogendra Nath Mandal's alliance with the Muslim League exemplified this strategy. British authorities fueled fears among Dalits and trib-

als, claiming the "Hindu Raj" would oppress them. This manipulation ignored the historical social cohesion and shared struggles of India's diverse communities.

Mahatma Gandhi's vision for a unified India contrasts sharply with the divisive agenda of some contemporary politicians, who seek to resurrect the British-era fault lines. Gandhi's emphasis on eradicating social evils and promoting national unity has given way to identity politics and vote bank manipulation.

India's democratic fabric demands that citizens and leaders recognise and resist these divisive forces, promoting national unity and social cohesion. The country must acknowledge its complex history and address the lingering consequences of colonialism. By doing so, India can overcome the artificial divisions imposed

upon it and forge a path toward true unity and progress.

Despite progress, India faces significant challenges in overcoming the legacy of colonialism. Politicians continue to exploit social divisions for electoral gains, while foreign forces seek to undermine India's unity. The rise of social media has amplified divisive rhetoric, making it easier to spread misinformation and fuel tensions. The divisive legacy of British colonialism remains a pressing concern for India. By acknowledging this history and resisting divisive forces, India can build a more unified future. Citizens must prioritise national interests over sectarian agendas, and leaders must work toward inclusive governance.

(The writer is National Joint General Secretary, Organisation BJP; views are personal)

New drug rules, regulatory procedures boost scientific research as per global practices: Centre

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 16

New drug rules and regulatory procedures introduced in India have promoted scientific and ethical research at par with global expectation and international practices, the government said on Wednesday.

Addressing at the 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA) in the national capital, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Anupriya Singh Patel, said the conference is crucial in sharing knowledge, building partnerships and working in harmonisation to ensure safe and effective medicines for everyone. "Our efforts can lead to better health outcomes for people all over the world. The ICDRA is not just a conference; it is a chance for us to collaborate, innovate, and support one another in our shared mission for better health for all", said the minister.



The conference is being hosted for the first time in India by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The country has introduced New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules 2019 and Medical Device Rules 2017.

According to the minister, the medical device rules in India include risk-

based classification, bringing all devices under regulation through registration and framing regulatory pathway.

"There is robust pre-approval and post approval regulatory procedures of all medical devices, diagnostics managing product lifecycle indicating robust control. We are collaborating with international organisations such as the International Medical Device Regulators

Forum (IMDRF), ISO, WHO and regional network like SEARN (South-East Asia Regulatory Network) to harmonise regulatory requirements in the area of medical devices and diagnostics," Patel told the gathering.

India has recently been recognised as an affiliate member of IMDRF. "Recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia by the Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG) is

another milestone marking the harmonisation and recognition of regulatory standards", the minister informed.

On the Centre's commitment to healthcare, the minister said that programmes like Ayushman Bharat ensure that over 500 million people have access to quality healthcare.

Dr VK Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, said "quality medicines improve the quality of life, human productivity as well as the way of life."

Research and DG, ICMR, that in the first three months of the pandemic, India developed indigenous tests at one-fortieth of the cost.

"Similarly, within nine months of the pandemic, India approved a Covid-19 vaccine," he said, adding that three diagnostic tests have also been developed for MPOx which were approved by CDSCO.

Dr Yukiko Nakatani, Assistant Director-General, WHO noted that one urgent need highlighted by the pandemic was the need for a strong regulatory system.

Dr Yukiko also congratulated India for its achievement of retaining 'Maturity level III' for vaccine regulation. Kimberlee Trzeciak, Deputy Commissioner, US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) highlighted the opportunities and risks brought about by the introduction of advanced drug manufacturing practices as opposed to the traditional methods.

Dr Paul informed that India licensed eight vaccines for use during the pandemic through a proper regulatory process.

Dr Rajiv Bahl, Secretary, Department of Health

Qatar WHO partnership for, healthier mega-sporting events

AGENCIES
GENEVA, OCT 16

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, the State of Qatar and World Health Organisation on Wednesday launched a new report providing lessons learned and recommendations for staging healthy and safe mega and grassroots sporting events around the world.

Strengthening health and well-being through sport events, is the product of the 3-year Sport for Health partnership established in 2021 by Qatar and WHO, in collaboration with FIFA and Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, to deliver a healthy and safe FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

It was launched during a Ministerial event titled Strengthening Health and Well-being Through Sport Events, held in

Doha during the ongoing 71st WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Committee.

Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari, Minister of Public Health for Qatar, said: "The collaboration between Qatar, WHO and FIFA can inspire organisers of major global sporting events to integrate health into the planning and execution of their events."

"The power of sports and sporting events to empower people to lead healthier lives, physically and mentally," said WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

The Sport for Health Partnership culminated in the staging of a range of health-related activities during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, dealing with health promotion (tobacco control, healthy diets, mental health, and physical activity), health security, and advocacy and communications.

New chip-based blood test can diagnose heart attacks in minutes

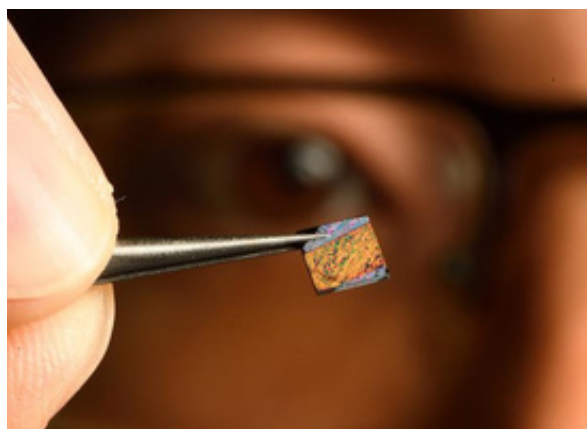
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 16

Scientists on Wednesday reported a new blood test that can diagnose heart attacks in minutes rather than hours, and could be adapted as a tool for first responders and people at home.

Developed by researchers at Johns Hopkins University in the US, the stand-alone blood test provides results in five to seven minutes. It's also more accurate and more affordable than current methods.

Peng Zheng and his team created a tiny chip with a groundbreaking nanostructured surface on which blood is tested.

"We were able to invent a new technology that can quickly and accurately establish if someone is having a heart attack,"



said Zheng, an assistant research scientist at Johns Hopkins.

The proof-of-concept work, which can be modified to detect infectious diseases and cancer biomarkers, has been published in the journal Advanced Science.

Though created for speedy diagnostic work in a clinical setting, the test could be adapted as

a hand-held tool that first responders could use in the field, or that people might even be able to use themselves at home.

The chip's "metasurface" enhances electric and magnetic signals during Raman spectroscopy analysis, making heart attack biomarkers visible in seconds, even in ultra-low concentrations.

The tool is sensitive

enough to flag heart attack biomarkers that might not be detected at all with current tests, or not detected until much later in an attack.

Though designed to diagnose heart attacks, the tool could be adapted to detect cancer and infectious diseases, the researchers said.

"We're talking about speed, we're talking about accuracy, and we're talking about the ability to perform measurements outside of a hospital," said senior author Ishan Barman, a bioengineer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

"There is enormous commercial potential," Barman said. "There's nothing that limits this platform technology." The team now plans to refine the blood test and explore larger clinical trials.

7 in 10 people above age 50 don't trust AI generated health information: US poll

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 16

A new poll in the US showed on Wednesday that 74 per cent of people above age 50 would have very little or no trust in health information if it were generated by artificial intelligence (AI).

Meanwhile, 20 per cent of older adults have little or no confidence that they could spot misinformation about a health topic if they came across it, according to data from the University of Michigan (U-M) and AARP's 'National Poll on Healthy Aging'.

That percentage was even higher among older adults who say their mental health, physical health or memory is fair or poor, and among those who report having a disability that limits their activities. According to



the poll, those who might need trustworthy health information, the most were more likely to say they had little or no confidence they could spot false information.

Among all older adults who have searched for health information online recently, only 32 per cent said it's very easy to find

something accurate.

"The findings also highlight the key role that health care providers and pharmacists play as trusted health messengers in older adults' lives, and even the role that friends or family with medical backgrounds can play," said poll director Jeffrey Kullgren, a primary care

physician at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System and associate professor of internal medicine at U-M.

"We also find that websites run by health organisations are seen by most who use them as very trustworthy, which suggests a need to encourage more people to use them," he added.

Social isolation deprives older people of key nutrients in diet: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 16

Senior people who are socially isolated are more likely to have an insufficient intake of key micronutrients such as vitamin C and vitamin B6, increasing their risk of health problems, according to a new study.

The researchers from University College London (UCL) found that people who were more socially isolated were more likely to have a lower than recommended intake of five micronutrients that are essential for health: magnesium, potassium, vitamin C, folate and vitamin B6.

These micronutrients are typically found in small quantities in fruit, vegetables, legumes (such as peas, beans and lentils) and fish, suggesting a diet lacking in these food



sources.

"This is important as inadequate intake of these micronutrients puts people at greater risk of health problems as they get older," said professor Andrew Steptoe from UCL Behavioural Science and Health in the study published in the journal Age

and Ageing. One explanation for this link is that if people are more isolated, they might not have others around them to provide information about what is healthy and encourage a more varied diet.

Older people also tend to stick to diets they know and might not vary their

foods as much as they used to, said the authors.

Researchers used data from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), in which a nationally representative population sample in England answers a wide range of questions every two years. The respondents were

scored on how socially isolated they were, based on whether they lived alone, how frequently they saw friends and relatives outside their household, and whether they took part in any clubs or organisations.

The team found that a one-point increase in participants' social isolation score was linked to a higher likelihood of inadequate intake of five out of nine key micronutrients two years later. Social isolation was not linked to a higher likelihood of inadequate calcium, iron and vitamin B12, micronutrients largely derived from meat, eggs and dairy. This suggested that people who were less socially connected in the study may be more likely to have a more traditional diet with fewer vegetables (such as dark leafy greens), fruit, nuts, seeds and legumes.

7 in 10 people above age 50 don't trust AI generated health information: US poll

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 16

A new poll in the US showed on Wednesday that 74 per cent of people above age 50 would have very little or no trust in health information if it were generated by artificial intelligence (AI).

Meanwhile, 20 per cent of older adults have little or no confidence that they could spot misinformation about a health topic if they came across it, according to data from the University of Michigan (U-M) and AARP's 'National Poll on Healthy Aging'.

That percentage was even higher among older adults who say their mental health, physical health or memory is fair or poor, and among those

who report having a disability that limits their activities.

According to the poll, those who might need trustworthy health information, the most were more likely to say they had little or no confidence they could spot false information.

Among all older adults who have searched for health information online recently, only 32 per cent said it's very easy to find something accurate.

"The findings also highlight the key role that health care providers and pharmacists play as trusted health messengers in older adults' lives, and even the role that friends or family with medical backgrounds can play," said poll director Jeffrey Kullgren, a primary care

physician at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System and associate professor of internal medicine at U-M.

"We also find that websites run by health organisations are seen by most who use them as very trustworthy, which suggests a need to encourage more people to use them," he added.

In all, 84 per cent of older adults said they had gotten health information directly from a health care provider, pharmacist or friend or family member in the past year.

More than 70 per cent of them rated the health professionals as very trustworthy, but 62 per cent said the same about friends and family with medical backgrounds.

AP CM voices concerned over diarrhoea deaths

AGENCIES
VILAYAWADA, OCT 16

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu here on Tuesday expressed serious concern over the death of five persons due to diarrhoea at Gurla village

in Vizianagaram district in the past two days.

Against the backdrop of the death of four persons on a single day on Monday, the Chief Minister inquired about the prevailing situation in the area and sought the details from the officials

of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). Chandrababu also inquired about the details on how the treatment is being provided to those who are suffering from the problem and the sanitary works being taken up in the village.

Telangana Governor calls for concerted effort to eradicate tuberculosis

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, OCT 16

Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma on Wednesday emphasized that Tuberculosis (TB) is entirely curable and called for a concerted

effort to eliminate the disease from the state.

Speaking at the launch of the 75th TB Seal Sale Campaign, held at Darbar Hall in Raj Bhavan here, the Governor, who also the President of the Tuberculosis Association

of Telangana, underscored the advancements in treatment available through the National TB Control Programme.

He urged TB patients to adhere strictly to the prescribed treatment regimen and encouraged the

association to intensify its efforts to reduce the number of TB cases.

"It is essential to ensure active community participation and secure the support of families at all levels to achieve the goal of a TB-free

India by 2025," Varma remarked.

The Governor also commended the Tuberculosis Association of Telangana for its remarkable contributions towards the eradication of tuberculosis in the state.

Jitendra Singh to lay foundation for national projects at CSIR-NIIST

AGENCIES
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
OCT 16

Union Minister for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh will lay the foundation for the Centre of Excellence in Ayurveda Research at the CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) here on, Thursday as one of the milestone projects to mark the Golden Jubilee of the premier institute.

The move is being viewed as a major step towards the global outreach of Ayurveda backed by scientific validation and standardisation.

Union Minister Singh will also lay the foundation for the Centre of Excellence in Performance Chemicals and Sustainable Polymers for Industrial Application while inaugurating the year-long Golden Jubilee celebrations on the CSIR-NIIST campus.



The Centre of Excellence in Ayurveda Research is envisaged as a premier facility for scientific validation, standardisation and global promotion of Ayurvedic products, making them compliant with international

standards, considering the worldwide acceptance of the holistic Indian system of wellness. The centre will leverage advanced R&D methods and tools to ensure that Ayurvedic formulations meet the needs of modern wellness paradigms and global healthcare systems. "With the growing

quality, safety and efficacy standards, considering the worldwide acceptance of the holistic Indian system of wellness.

The centre will leverage advanced R&D methods and tools to ensure that Ayurvedic formulations meet the needs of modern wellness paradigms and global healthcare systems. "With the growing

global acceptance of Ayurveda, ensuring the safety, efficacy, and quality of Ayurvedic medicines is vital. The need for validation of Ayurvedic drugs is critical to align them with international standards. The new Centre aims to address this challenge," said CSIR-NIIST, Director C Anandharamkrishnan.

The facility will support Ayush enterprises, including MSMEs, to strengthen their product portfolios, particularly in Ayurveda, at a time when the global wellness industry is projected to grow exponentially.

This initiative will help position Kerala as a global hub for high-quality Ayurvedic products.

The Centre of Excellence in Performance Chemicals and Sustainable Polymers for Industrial Application aligns with India's goal

of becoming the world's third-largest economy by 2030, focusing on the need to strengthen Research & Development to reduce the dependence on imports by fostering domestic production in chemical and polymer sectors.

Performance chemicals are critical in the development of optoelectronic devices and energy technologies, driving innovations that enhance functionality, efficiency, and self-reliance in these contemporary areas of interest.

CSIR-NIIST has a four-decade-long expertise in chemicals and polymers for multifarious applications, with a thorough knowledge base. The centre on the campus will have a team of over 13 scientists, led by Anandharamkrishnan.

'Self-radicalised' man who vandalised Secunderabad temple hails from Maharashtra, says police

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, OCT 16

The man, who entered a temple in Secunderabad here and damaged the idol two days ago, hails from Maharashtra, police said on Wednesday.

He has been identified as Salman Salim Thakur alias Salman, aged about 30 years, a native of Mumbra, near Mumbai.

The police investigations revealed that he came to Hyderabad early this month to attend a month-long personality development workshop.

On October 14 at about 4.30 a.m., he entered into the sanctum-sanctorum of Sri Muthyalamma Temple located at Kummarguda, in the Market Police Station limits and desecrated the main idol of the temple. Upon hearing the noise, locals reached the spot and caught hold of the person and prevented further damage, Hyderabad police said in a statement. Angered by

the provocative and mischievous act, some of the locals manhandled him. When questioned about the reason for trespass and damage, he refused to divulge his name, details and motive behind his act.

Acting swiftly on the information, the local Police reached the spot, shifted the accused to a hospital and took stock of the situation. A First Information Report (FIR) has been registered at Market Police Station under sections 333, 331(4), 196, 298, and 299 of BNS.

According to police, Salman came to Hyderabad to attend a personality development workshop, which is organised by English House Academy under the correspondence of Munawar Zama, Md. Kafeel Ahmed and others at Hotel Metropolis, Regimental Bazar, Secunderabad. Police found that the hotel premises were rented illegally for running the academic course which has no formal per-

mission. Necessary legal action is being taken up against the management for the same, it said.

Further investigation revealed that Salman is a B.E Computer Engineering graduate and is active on social media. He started watching videos of Islamic religious preachers like fugitive Zakir Naik and others on Facebook and YouTube. He became self-radicalised and developed a radical bent mind and hatred towards the practices of other/Hindu religions.

It was also revealed that the accused is involved in similar incidents in Mumbai. In 2022, he entered a Ganesh Pandal with his footwear and argued with local people mocking the practice of idolatry. On August 1, 2024, he trespassed into Sri Manokamana Sidhimaheva Mandir and damaged the idol of Lord Shanker, hereby insulting Hindu religion and faith, the police said.

BSF seizes 2.75 kg gold along Indo-B'desh border, 3 farmers held

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, OCT 16

The Border Security Force (BSF) arrested three Indian farmers with 2.75 kg gold, hidden in the frames of their bicycles, near the Indo-Bangladesh Border (IBB) in West Bengal's Murshidabad district. Nilotpal Kumar Pandey, DIG and Spokesperson, South Bengal Frontier, BSF said the seized gold is valued at nearly Rs 1.98 crore.

"Troops of the 73 Bn BSF, posted at the India One Border Outpost, received a specific intelligence input regarding an attempt to smuggle gold from across the border inside bicycle frames," he

said.

He added that the jawans began searching accused farmers returning from work on their farmlands close to the International Border.

"Their bicycles were also searched. Finally, 15 gold biscuits and 8 gold pieces were found inside the bicycle frames of three farmers. They were immediately taken into custody," the DIG Pandey said.

He added that the farmers were taken to the India One BOP where they confessed that they had received 23 gold pieces from an unknown person in Budhpara village in Bangladesh's Rajshahi district.

"They hid 12 gold pieces in the frame of one bicy-

cle and the remaining in another. The three farmers were told to cross the BSF's Domination Line and wait for a bus conductor who would visit the Sheikhpara area around 7 pm. Once the consignments was handed over to him, the farmers were to receive Rs 500 per piece of gold. Our alert troops foiled this attempt," said DIG Pandey.

He said that the farmers and the gold were handed over to the customs department for further legal action.

The DIG, while commending the jawans, urged border residents to help the BSF in toiling attempts to smuggle gold from across the border.

SIDDARAMAIAH, SHIVAKUMAR INAUGURATE CAUVERY 5TH STAGE PROJECT

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, OCT 16

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar on Wednesday inaugurated the ambitious Cauvery 5th Stage Project, aimed at supplying drinking water to 110 villages under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits.

The project was inaugurated by pressing a button at the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board's (BWSSB) water purification plant in Torekadanahalli, Malavalli Taluk.

CM Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar symbolically



offered water-filled pots to Goddess Cauvery and planted saplings on plant's premises.

The project was undertaken with an investment of Rs 4,336 crore in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The project was announced during Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's

JICA.

The project will ensure that Cauvery water reaches every corner of Bengaluru, including homes in areas like Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru South, Byatarayanapura, T. Dasarahalli, Mahadevapura, Yelahanka, Rajarajeshwari-nagar, and Bommanahalli zones.

An additional 775 Mega Litres per Day of water will be supplied to Bengaluru as part of the Cauvery 5th Stage project, providing a solution to the city's drinking water problems.

The BWSSB has provided 10.64 lakh water connections in Bengaluru, and an additional 4 lakh connections will be pro-

vided under the 5th stage, leading to an increase in revenue.

Until now, 1.58 TMC of water was supplied to Bengaluru each month. After implementing the 5th stage, this will increase to 2.4 TMC monthly.

The event was presided over by MLA Narendra Swamy and attended by District In-charge Minister N. Chaluvarayasyam, Energy Minister K.J. George, former Ministers S. T. Somashekhar, Byrathi Basavaraju, MLAs S.R. Vishwanath, T.M. Nagaraju, Ravi, Dinesh Gooligowda, Sudam Das, Madegowda, Nagaraj Yadav, and several other dignitaries.

Make me CM again, says Kejriwal in open letter to Delhi voters

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 16

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday made an emotional appeal to Delhi voters to re-elect him as the Chief Minister in the upcoming Assembly elections.

The legislator from the New Delhi Assembly constituency accused the BJP of conspiring to halt development in the national capital and sought public support to defeat it.

In a letter addressed to Delhiites, Kejriwal hit out at the BJP, claiming that he was jailed for five months not because he indulged in corruption but due to his efforts to improve the city's infrastructure and services.

"I believe you will re-elect the AAP government in Delhi to continue

all the work. With your vote, I will again take on the responsibility of Chief Minister and continue to work for you as before," he wrote in Hindi.

"They kept me in jail for five months. Why did they arrest me? When you know the real reason, you will be shocked. Everyone knows that I haven't committed any corruption. Kejriwal cannot indulge in corruption. So why did they arrest me? It's because of the work I'm doing for you in Delhi and the services I'm providing, that they wanted to stop. They arrested me to halt these services," said Kejriwal.

The former Delhi Chief Minister argued that the BJP is envious of the work done in the capital as they are "unable to replicate" similar achievements in other states.

"I have done such work in Delhi that has never been done before in the country. They have governments in 22 states, but they are unable to replicate the work done in Delhi. People in those states have started asking them why similar work isn't being done there. They don't have an answer," he stated.

Kejriwal claimed that after AAP's success in Punjab, the BJP plotted to block the party's good work in Delhi.

The BJP is afraid that if the AAP continues to expand its influence nationwide, it could become a threat to it, he said.

"For the past 10 years, they have tried to stop Delhi's work through the LG, but I didn't let any of your work get stopped. I am educated, and having been an officer in the gov-



ernment, I know how to get things done. When they failed in that, they arrested me," he said.

Accusing the BJP of attempting to harm his health while he was in jail, Kejriwal alleged, "They were so afraid of my good work that they made every effort in jail to prevent me from coming out healthy. They stopped my medication. I'm a diabetic and

have been taking insulin injections four times a day for the past ten years. They stopped my injections in jail, which could have damaged my kidneys and even caused my death."

The former Delhi CM further emphasised that while he was imprisoned, numerous developmental works, such as road repairs, sewer cleaning, and improvement in water

supply, were halted. However, he assured the people that all halted works would be resumed.

"Their conspiracy failed again, but now they are planning to somehow come to power and stop all the work in Delhi," he warned, adding that it was now up to the people to prevent this from happening.

He also painted a grim picture of what could happen if the BJP came to power in Delhi.

"They will first stop your free electricity. Power cuts, which used to happen before our government, will return. They will ruin government schools and hospitals. Mohalla Clinics will be shut down.

Free medicines, tests, and treatments will be discontinued. Your free water supply will be stopped. Free bus rides for women

will end. Senior citizens' pilgrimages will be cancelled. The 'Farishte' scheme, which provides free treatment to accident victims, will be terminated," he wrote.

Kejriwal accused the BJP of leaving the 22 states under their rule in "shambles," with long power cuts, expensive utilities, and deteriorating government schools and hospitals.

"I went to jail only for you. If I hadn't done all this work for you and provided you with these services, they would have never sent me to jail. If Manish Sisodia hadn't built good schools for your children, he would never have gone to jail.

If Satyendar Jain hadn't arranged free medicines and treatment for you in Mohalla Clinics and hospitals, he would never

have gone to jail," Kejriwal wrote, referring to his party colleagues.

"I, Manish, and Satyendar went to jail for you - and we have no regrets. Our entire lives are dedicated to the country and society. But what concerns us is that the work we have done with hard work and honesty over the past ten years, along with you, should not be stopped now," he added.

Concluding his letter, Kejriwal urged the people of Delhi to vote for AAP to protect the progress made in the city.

"You can only save the work being done in Delhi and the facilities you are receiving with the power of your vote. I am confident that together, we will defeat the BJP's conspiracy to stop the work in Delhi in the upcoming Assembly elections," he said.

Jharkhand Police seek deployment of 590 paramilitary personnel for Assembly elections

AGENCIES
RANCHI, OCT 16

The Jharkhand Police have requested deployment of 590 paramilitary personnel to ensure security during the upcoming Assembly elections to be held in the month of November.

During the recent Lok Sabha elections, 230 paramilitary personnel were deployed across three phases of voting in the state.

The Assembly elections, covering 81 seats, will be



held in two phases on November 13 and 20, with results to be announced on November 23. The

Election Commission of India has called for stringent security measures to ensure a fair and fear-free

election process.

Phase I of the voting will cover 43 seats, while 38 seats will go to polls in the second phase of November 20.

The total number of voters is 2.6 crore, with 29,562 polling stations, of which 5,042 are in urban areas. On average, there are 881 voters per booth.

Ahead of the elections, 100 paramilitary troops, comprising CRPF, CISF, BSF, SSB, and ITBP personnel, have already been deployed in all 24 districts on the Commis-

sion's orders. Currently, 3 to 5 companies are stationed in each district, carrying out activities such as flag marches, area control, and security checks to instill confidence among the public. CCTV cameras and checkpoints will also be installed at inter-district and inter-state borders.

Updates and reports with regard to the seizure of materials and any election-related incidents will be shared with the Election Office daily through the ESMS portal, officials said.

Tarun Chugh confident of BJP-led NDA victory in Maha, J'khand polls

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 16

BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Wednesday expressed confidence that the forthcoming Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assembly elections will result in a BJP-led NDA government in both states.

The Election Commission announced on Tuesday that the Assembly elections in Maharash-

tra and Jharkhand will be held in two phases, with Jharkhand voting on November 13 and November 20, and Maharashtra voting on November 20. The counting of votes for both states will take place on November 23.

"Elections have been announced in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, and in a democracy, elections are like a festival. Under the leadership of Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi, an NDA government will be formed in Jharkhand," said Chugh.

He criticised Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, saying, "The people of Jharkhand are suffering under the oppressive, corrupt, and tyrannical leadership of Hemant Soren. In these elections, the people will support the lotus in Jharkhand, and NDA governments will be formed in both states."

SCO must lead push for UNSC reform: EAM Jaishankar in Islamabad

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD, OCT 16

India on Wednesday used the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting in Pakistan to reiterate its demand for urgent reforms in the UN Security Council so that it could keep pace with the changing world order.

Addressing the meeting in Islamabad, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar said there was a strong case for "reformed multilateralism" and the SCO must take the lead in advocating such change without holding back a matter of such importance. He said the Security Council needs to reinvent itself to make it more representative, inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic and accountable.

"Comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council, both in the permanent and non-permanent categories, is essential. I remind you that we recognised in July 2024 at Astana that the credibility and effectiveness of the UN is dependent on ensuring the representation of developing countries through comprehensive reform," said EAM Jaishankar.



India has been pushing for a permanent seat in the UNSC but has not been successful due to objections by certain existing members.

The External Affairs Minister also highlighted India's global initiatives and national endeavours that are relevant to the SCO.

"The International Solar Alliance promotes renewable energy. The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure prepares us for climate events. Mission LiFE advocates a sustainable lifestyle. Practising Yoga and promoting millet make a difference to wellness and to the environment," he said.

Jaishankar also showcased India's role in the Global Biofuel Alliance which recognises the task of energy transition. "The International Big Cat Alliance protects our biodiversity," he said.

"At home, we have demonstrated the value of digital public infrastructure, just as we have shown the impact of women-led development," the minister added.

Earlier, Jaishankar sent a strong message to host Pakistan on cross-border terrorism by describing "terrorism, extremism and separatism" as the "three evils" that need to be addressed to promote cooperation and integration.

"If activities across borders are characterised by terrorism, extremism and separatism, they are hardly likely to encourage trade, energy flows, connectivity and people-to-people exchanges in parallel," the minister stated.

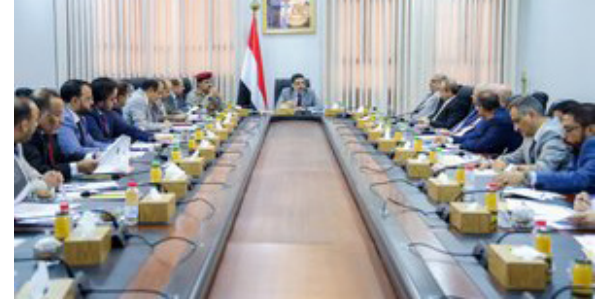
Emergency meeting held in Yemen to address sharp depreciation of currency

AGENCIES
ADEN (YEMEN), OCT 16

Yemeni Prime Minister Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak has held an emergency meeting in the southern port city of Aden to stabilise the national currency after a sharp depreciation of the Yemeni riyal in government-controlled provinces.

The meeting, attended by Central Bank Governor Ahmed Ghaleb and Finance Minister Salem bin Buraik, focused on implementing fiscal and monetary reforms to stabilise the national currency and increase public revenues, according to the state-run Saba news agency on Tuesday.

Banking sources in Yemen's government-controlled provinces, including Aden, Taiz, and Marib, told Xinhua news agency that the exchange rate has



exceeded 2,000 Yemeni riyals per US Dollar, the lowest level since the civil war began in late 2014 when one US Dollar was equivalent to 215 riyals.

This decline has resulted in soaring prices for staple goods like rice, wheat, and fuel, further exacerbating the hardships faced by Yemeni citizens, Xinhua news agency reported.

Following the meeting, the central bank governor announced a public auction to sell \$50 million as part of immediate inter-

ventions. He attributed the pressure on the riyal to the halt of key national resources, reduced aid, and declining state revenues.

Bin Mubarak emphasised the government's concern over the "catastrophic consequences" of the currency's depreciation on citizens' daily lives.

He pledged full support for the central bank's measures and stressed the importance of their swift implementation to stabilise the exchange rate.

US says Indian probe team's visit reflects New Delhi's serious intent

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, OCT 16

As an Indian committee investigating US allegations that an Indian government employee directed a foiled plot to kill a Khalistani separatist on American soil met Tuesday with counterparts to share their findings, the US said the presence of the team in Washington D.C. reflected the seriousness with which New Delhi was taking the case.

The US also said that it had urged India to treat Canadian allegations about the killing of a Khalistani separatist but New Delhi had "not chosen that path". The US alleged in an indictment filed in a New York court in 2023 that an Indian businessman tried to plot an assassination attempt on a Khalistani separatist -- Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, although he was not named in the court filing -- at the behest of an Indian Central government employee.

Nikhil Gupta, the busi-

nessman, is in US custody awaiting trial.

India has set up a committee to inquire about the allegations.

"The fact that they sent an inquiry committee here, I think, demonstrates that they are taking this seriously," John Kirby, a spokesman for the US National Security Council, said in a news briefing.

"It is something they absolutely need to take seriously."

"I don't have a read-out on the meeting yet," Mathew Miller, the US State Department Spokesperson said. "The meeting was here as a follow-up on conversations that we have been having with the Indian government at the senior-most levels over the past several months. They have told us that they are taking the allegations seriously, that the activities contained in the DOJ (Department of Justice) indictment do not represent government policy."

Miller also said the investigation does not take

away from the overall relationship between the two sides.

"India continues to be an incredibly strong partner of the US. We work with them on a number of matters, including our shared vision for a free, open, prosperous Indo-Pacific. And when we have concerns, we have a relationship where we can take those concerns to them and have very frank, candid conversations about those concerns."

Tuesday's meeting, he added, "was to discuss their active investigation into the matter, for us to update them on our active investigation into the matter." Kirby refused to comment on the India-Canada tensions.

"We have made clear that the allegations are extremely serious, serious, and they need to be taken seriously," Miller said about Canada's allegations that on Monday precipitated the expulsion of diplomats by New Delhi and Ottawa.

Backing Trudeau's unsubstantiated attacks, UK asks India to cooperate with Canada's legal process

AGENCIES
LONDON, OCT 16

A day after the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke with Keir Starmer, his counterpart from the United Kingdom, the UK Foreign Office on Wednesday stated that the Indian government's cooperation with Canada's legal process is the "right next step".

"We are in contact with our Canadian partners about the serious developments outlined in the independent investigations in Canada. The UK has full confidence in Canada's judicial system. Respect for sovereignty and the rule of law is essential," said a spokesperson of the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

"The Government of India's cooperation with Canada's legal process is the right next step," the statement added.

Trudeau had dialled Starmer after India's



Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday announced its decision to withdraw its High Commissioner and "other targeted diplomats and officials" from Canada citing the Canadian PM's continued hostility towards India.

According to a statement issued by his office after the phone call, Trudeau had held discussions with the UK PM on

"recent developments related to a targeted campaign against Canadian citizens by agents linked to the Government of India".

"The leaders discussed the need to ensure the safety and security of their citizens and the importance of upholding and respecting the rule of law. Prime Minister Trudeau underscored Can-

ada's continued interest in cooperation with India to address this serious matter," it added further.

Both the UK and Canada are part of the so-called intelligence sharing Five Eyes alliance which also includes the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

The Canadian government has been emphasising over the last few days that it will discuss the current standoff with its Five Eyes partners.

India has dismissed Ottawa's assertions as "preposterous imputations", accusing the Trudeau Government for "consciously" providing space to violent extremists and terrorists to harass, threaten and intimidate Indian diplomats and community leaders in Canada.

"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 MEA on Monday.

"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.

2 billion women, girls worldwide lack access to social protection: UN report

AGENCIES
UNITED NATIONS, OCT 16

A staggering 2 billion women and girls worldwide have no social protection, according to a report released by UN Women.

The report, "World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2024", reveals a widening gender gap in social protection -- the raft of policies including cash benefits, unemployment protection, pensions and healthcare -- leaving women and girls more vulnerable to poverty.

While levels of social protection have increased since 2015, gender gaps in such coverage have widened in most developing regions, suggesting that the recent gains have benefited men more than women, shows the report published ahead of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17, Xinhua news agency reported.

Despite advancements, more than 63 per cent of women worldwide still



give birth without access to maternity benefits, with the figure soaring to 94 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa. The lack of financial support during maternity leave not only places women at an economic disadvantage but also compromises their health and well-being and that of their children, perpetuating poverty across generations, it shows.

The report paints a stark picture of the gendered nature of poverty. Women and girls are over-represented among the poor at every stage of life, with the largest gaps during their childbearing years. Women aged 25-34

are 25 per cent more likely to live in extremely poor households than men in the same age group. Conflict and climate change exacerbate this inequality. Women in fragile contexts are 7.7 times more likely to live in extreme poverty compared to those in non-fragile environments.

The report said gender-specific risks and vulnerabilities are often neglected in the aftermath of shocks.

"The potential of social protection for gender equality, resilience and transformation is enormous. To harness this, we need to centre the dignity, agency and empowerment of women and girls at

every stage of the process -- from policy and programme design to delivery and financing," said Sarah Hendriks, director of the Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Division at UN Women, presenting the report at a joint event with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The report spotlights examples of progress. Countries such as Mongolia have extended maternity leave benefits to informal workers, including herders and the self-employed, while also strengthening paternity leave to support gender equality in caregiving responsibilities. In countries like Mexico and Tunisia, steps have been taken to include domestic workers in social security systems.

The report calls on governments to provide women and girls with sustainable pathways out of poverty, by prioritizing the needs of women and girls in their social protection measures and crisis responses.

SYRIAN OFFICIAL CALLS FOR LIFTING OF SANCTIONS AMID SURGING REFUGEE ARRIVALS DUE TO ISRAELI ATTACKS

AGENCIES
DAMASCUS, OCT 16

A Syrian official has expressed concern over the prolonged impact of the ongoing Israeli military operation in Lebanon, warning that international sanctions on Syria, coupled with the flow of refugees from Lebanon, would deplete Syria's already strained resources.

"We do not know how long this situation could continue. Therefore, we ask the international community to act immediately to lift the sanctions on Syria and to lift the Caesar Act so that we can receive humanitarian aid, food supplies, and medical supplies," said Alaa al-Sheikh, a member of the executive office in Rural Damascus Province, on Tuesday.

The Caesar Act, a US legislation that sanctions the Syrian government for alleged war crimes against the Syrian population that came into force in 2020, has crippled the country's economy and hindered its ability to address humanitarian needs, Xinhua news agency reported.

Escalating tensions in the region are straining Syria's capacity to respond to its own needs, which has been compounded by the continued inflow of refugees from Lebanon,



the official said.

"We cannot deny that Syria, after years of war, has been exhausted." Meanwhile, Minister of Local Administration and Environment, Louay Khareta, announced on Tuesday that 20 new shelters have been prepared to receive refugees.

A total of 42,671 free medical services have been provided to individuals arriving from Lebanon as a result of the ongoing Israeli assault, said the Syrian Health Ministry.

The Health Ministry added that the services include general medical care, surgeries, emergency pro-

cedures, mental health support, reproductive health services, care for individuals with chronic conditions, as well as necessary vaccinations for children and tetanus shots for women of reproductive age.

According to recent statistics, 386,000 people, including 125,000 Lebanese and 261,000 Syrians, have arrived in Syria from Lebanon since September 24 through border crossings, most of whom gathered in the countryside of Damascus, Homs, and Tartus, with support and aid being provided by the Syrian Red Crescent.

India needs to create 100 million jobs towards 'Viksit Bharat' goal: Chandrasekaran

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 16

As India embarks on the journey to become a developed nation, the country needs to create 100 million jobs to meet the employment needs of the growing workforce, Tata Sons Chairman, N Chandrasekaran, has stressed.



The Tata Group has also doubled down on creating more manufacturing jobs in the country, as the whole ecosystem is brimming with multiple opportunities for the Indian companies, especially 500,000 small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

According to Chandrasekaran, as the Tata Group invests in semiconductors, precision manufacturing, assembly, electric vehicles, batteries, and related industries, it can

create five lakh manufacturing jobs in the next five years.

Sectors like semiconductor manufacturing have a "multiplier effect" and can create multiple indirect jobs. "We need to create 100 million jobs towards becoming a developed nation," he said during an event organised by the Indian Foundation for Quality Management.

Nearly one million

people enter the workforce in the country every month, making job creation in manufacturing essential for the future growth of the country.

Last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the leadership team of Tata Sons and Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC), which are building a Rs 91,000 crore mega semiconduc-

tor fabrication facility in Gujarat's Dholera.

In March, PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the Tata-PSMC chip plant in Gujarat.

The fab construction will generate over 20,000 direct and indirect skilled jobs in the region. The Tata Group's semiconductor plant in Assam will produce 4.83 crore semiconductor chips per day, along with generating 15,000 direct and up to 13,000 indirect jobs once operational.

The Tata Group is geared up for a new iPhone assembly plant in the country that is likely to become operational soon.

The job growth rises as in FY24, India's manufacturing sector saw a 7.4 per cent rise in employment, with 1.3 million new jobs created - up from 1.1 million in FY22.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently credited PM Modi for the recently reported remarkable surge in manufacturing jobs and wages for workers in FY23, where they have risen by 7.6 per cent and 5.5 per cent, respectively.

As per the government's Annual Survey of Industries 2022-23, nationwide employment in the sector has achieved a laudable rise from 1.6 crore workers in 2018-19 to 1.9 crore in 2022-23, while the concentration of employment in factories has also been rise to rise, with the number of workers per factory going up from 65 in 2018-19 to 71 in 2022-23.

Meanwhile, the key economic marker of Gross Value Added (GVA) in manufacturing, has risen by over 21 per cent from 2021-22 to 2022-23.

INDIA WITNESSES ANOTHER STRONG QUARTER FOR TWO-WHEELER SALES

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 16

Two-wheelers saw strong double-digit growth (year-on-year) in the second quarter of this fiscal, while three-wheelers grew by high single-digits, as wholesale volume trends were mixed across segments, a report showed on Wednesday.

The original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) reporting mixed revenue growth and margins in the July-September period, with 2Ws outperforming other segments.

"But we are still long-term positive on passenger vehicles (PVs) given the sectoral tailwinds and see the weakness in commercial vehicles (CVs) as a temporary hiccup as

we find the sector entering a new upcycle phase," according to the report by BNP Paribas India.

PV volume marginally declined and CV volume was also weak, likely hurt by the prolonged monsoon and slowdown in infrastructure activities, with low fleet utilisation.

HMSI (Honda Motorcycle) gained the most market share (retail) in 2Ws, while HMCL (Hero MotoCorp Ltd) lost the most in Q2 FY25. In PVs, Mahindra and Mahindra gained the most market share, while Maruti Suzuki India Ltd and Hyundai lost.

"We expect high single-digit to strong double-digit YoY revenue growth for 2Ws, and flat to high sin-

gle-digit revenue decline for PVs (except for Mahindra) in Q2 FY25," the report mentioned.

Management commentary on high levels of PV inventory, rising discounts and festive demand outlook would be key to watch out for.

"That said, given the weakening auto demand globally (and recent guidance cut by global peers), we now see a risk of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) cutting its FY25 guidance, eventually pushing next-year's guidance by a year," the report noted.

According to the latest SIAM data, domestic sales of passenger vehicles stood at 3,15,689 in September, compared to 3,16,908 units in September last year.

India can tap AI's potential to boost economic growth, drive inclusive progress: Google

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 16

Artificial intelligence (AI), set to play a crucial role in delivering the target of a \$1 trillion digital economy by 2028, about 20 per cent of India's GDP, and the country can maximise AI's potential to boost economic growth, drive inclusive progress and help it emerge as a global leader in public services, a new Google report said on Wednesday.

A recent Google-commissioned report estimated that at least Rs 33.8 lakh crore of economic value from AI adoption can be achieved in India in 2030.

According to the new paper, titled 'An AI Opportunity Agenda for India', the country, with its rapidly growing economy, outstanding tech talent coupled with its young demographic, and vibrant start-



up ecosystem, is poised to reap the immense benefits of AI.

"AI is already addressing some of the nation's most pressing challenges, from revolutionising farming practices to improving healthcare access and outcomes," said the report.

For instance, AI-powered platforms like AgroStar are empowering farmers, helping boost crop yields and encourage sustainable practices for farmers in the country.

In healthcare, AI is helping improve diagnosis, expand access, and personalise care, especially for underserved communities.

The tech giant has partnered with ARMMAN to use AI to identify women at risk of dropping out of their health information program, allowing for personalised interventions to improve maternal health outcomes.

The report stated that to maximise the 'AI Opportu-

nity for India', collaborative efforts across government, industry and civil society must prioritise three key areas: invest in infrastructure and innovation, build human capital and an AI-empowered workforce, and promote widespread adoption and universal accessibility.

"Further integrating AI across India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), including in healthcare, education, e-governance and finance, will help unleash AI's potential and accelerate the benefits of DPI," said the report.

Google in India has a clear goal to empower 10 million people with AI digital literacy including students, job seekers, educators, startups and developers and civil officials, and offer technical knowledge to help contribute towards building an AI-ready workforce.

India's Gen Z set to drive \$1.8 trillion worth direct spend by 2035

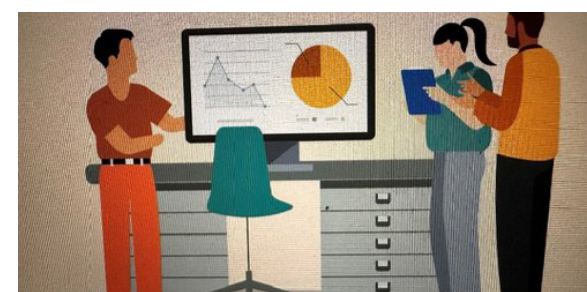
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 16

India is a young nation with 377 million Gen Z population and they will be the biggest contributor to the country's consumption growth, driving \$1.8 trillion worth of direct spend by 2035, a report showed on Wednesday.

In 2025, Gen Z's direct spends will amount to \$250 billion as by then, every 2nd Gen Z will be earning, according to the report by Snap Inc, partnered with Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

Their collective spending power has reached \$860 billion, surging to \$2 trillion by 2035. Gen Z buys as many times as millennials and is 1.5 times more likely to research their purchases.

"India is a young nation with a 377 million Gen Z



population which will shape the future of India's growth in the next two decades.

As a platform that serves the Gen Z audience, we look forward to working with brands and businesses to harness this growth potential," said Pulkit Trivedi, Managing Director, India, Snap Inc.

About 45 per cent of businesses recognise Gen Z's potential, but only 15 per cent take action to actively address them indicating a huge opportunity.

With 90 per cent of its

daily active users aged 13-34, Snapchat is the undisputed voice of young people in India.

"Gen Z is already driving 43 per cent of India's consumer spending. Their influence is not limited to select categories - it cuts across categories ranging from fashion, eating out, to automobiles and consumer durables," said Nimisha Jain, Senior Partner and Managing Director at BCG India.

This dynamic cohort is impacting significant spending across categories

such as 50 per cent of total spending on footwear, 48 per cent on dining, 48 per cent on out-of-home entertainment, and 47 per cent on fashion and lifestyle, said the report.

The way the spending is distributed shows that currently, out of Gen Z's total spending power of \$860 billion, approximately \$200 billion comes from direct spending - money they earn and spend themselves - while \$660 billion comes from influenced spending, which includes purchases influenced by their recommendations or preferences.

"By 2035, these figures are expected to change dramatically, with direct spending projected to reach \$1.8 trillion, implying that every second rupee of consumer spend in 2035, will be driven by Gen Z," the report noted.

Samsung workers call off 37-day strike at Sriperumbudur factory after reconciliation talks

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, OCT 15

The workers of Samsung India, who have been agitating against the management at the Sriperumbudur plant in Tamil Nadu, on Tuesday called off the 37-day strike that commenced on September 9, the state Labour Department announced.



The Labour Department, in a statement, said: "Both parties have accepted this advice. The workers have informed that they will call off the strike immediately and return to work. Thus, the strike at the Samsung factory has come to an end, and all the workers are resuming work."

"Samsung India welcomes CITU's decision to call off the illegal strike. We thank the government of Tamil Nadu for its support and welcome our workers who have decided to return to work unconditionally. We will not take action against workers

who merely participated in the illegal strike. We are committed to work closely with our workers to make the Chennai factory a great place to work," a Samsung India spokesperson said.

The strike was called off on Tuesday after multiple rounds of talks at the Tamil Nadu Secretariat, involving the state government, CITU leaders, and Samsung India management.

Sources said that the breakthrough came after senior DMK leader and state minister, E.V. Velu, took the initiative and joined the negotiations.

According to company sources, the agreement includes a hike in wages (which had already been agreed upon earlier) and no disciplinary action against the agitating employees.

However, the main issue raised by the CPI-M-backed Central Trade Union Centre (CITU) regarding the registration of its union is not part of the agreement.

The management stated in discussions with Tamil Nadu ministers that the matter is already before the Madras High Court, and a decision will be

taken after the court's verdict.

A consensus was reached between the workers and management that the registration of the union could be pursued based on the legal outcome.

The CITU, however, agreed to call off the strike after the Tamil Nadu government expressed its support for registering the union within the company. Representatives from both the management and the striking workers agreed that all workers would immediately call off the strike and return to work.

According to sources within CITU, Samsung India management confirmed that upon returning, workers involved in the strike would not face any victimisation. The workers also agreed to fully cooperate with the management and refrain from any actions prejudicial to the management's interests upon their return to work.

The management, according to CITU, will also issue a written response to the charter of demands submitted by the workers to the conciliation officer.

The trade union body, however, stated that the strike would be officially called off on Wednesday after a general body meeting of the Samsung India Workers' Union. CITU leaders confirmed to media persons that all their demands had been accepted by both the government and the company, and hence the strike was being called off.

19 of top 30 IPOs by size fail to generate excess returns: Report

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, OCT 16

Nineteen out of the top 30 IPOs by size have failed to generate excess returns when compared to the returns from the CNX500 index, according to a report.

Capitalmind Financial Services, a wealth management firm, said in a report that 8 of the 30 have delivered negative returns, including Reliance Power, the most high-profile, which was also the largest at the time.

Only two of the top 10 have generated returns greater than the CNX500. Coal India just about doubled in price over 14 years but does much better with its dividends. Even then, it just about matches the index.

"Zomato is the only top 10 IPO that has delivered meaningful excess



returns. The other big winners out of the top 30 are Hindustan Aeronautics, Indian Railway Finance Corp, Sona BLW Precision Forgings and ICICI Lombard," said in a report.

The report further said that five out of the top 10 IPOs are from the last two years. Most of them have done well, including Bajaj Housing Finance, Bharti Hexacom, and Brainbees (First Cry), thanks in no small measure to a favourable market.

Capitalmind Financial Services' Investments & Head of Research Anoop

Vijaykumar said: "Overall, big IPOs have struggled to deliver excess returns for the investors. IPOs abound in bull markets since they get optimistic valuations and most late-stage bull markets are characterised by a few large IPOs which tend to be valued optimistically."

"When the earnings growth to justify those valuations does not materialise combined with a mean-reversion in broader markets, high-profile IPOs end up delivering lower than expected returns," he added.

India's semiconductor market projected to surpass \$100 billion in revenues by 2030

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 16

India's semiconductor market is set to cross \$100 billion in revenues by 2030, driven by government initiatives like production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme amid robust demand to build digital infrastructure across industries, according to

a report on Wednesday.

Mobile handset, IT and telecom segments are leading the semiconductor industry, contributing more than 75 per cent of its revenues, according to a report by the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) and Counterpoint Research.

The government's \$9.1

billion 'Semicon India' programme aims to boost semiconductor manufacturing and workforce development, driving innovation and growth in India's tech ecosystem.

"India has created one of the largest smart populations in the world, powered by semiconductors operating in the background. Semiconductors

have a profound commercial, strategic and social impact," said Ved Prakash Mall, Director, IESA. Semiconductors play a crucial role in sectors such as electronics manufacturing, digital transformation, defense, aerospace, renewable energy, IoT, healthcare, automotive and research.

India's semiconductor

market was valued at \$45 billion in 2023 and is projected to rapidly grow at a CAGR of 13 per cent to surpass \$100 billion by 2030.

Tarun Pathak, Research Director at Counterpoint Research, said that the handset sector is the leading force in India's semiconductor industry, playing a crucial role in the

country's digital transformation as more consumers transition from feature phones to smartphones. "This growth is driven by the increased use of social media, OTT platforms, affordable prices, accessible data, and the expansion of the 5G network. At the same time, India's IT sector is thriving, supported by pandemic-

driven digitalisation and government initiatives like 'Digital India' and 'Make in India,' he mentioned. Union Minister for Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnav, said this month that India is moving towards becoming the next semiconductor hub for the world as big investment is happening in this sector in the country.

Thrilling India-Pakistan clash awaits as women's team kick off SAFF campaign

AGENCIES
KATHMANDU, OCT 16

The very promise of an India-Pakistan clash in the sporting arena is always a mouth-watering prospect, no matter which the discipline is. There is one in the offing on Thursday when India take on Pakistan in the Group A league tie of the SAFF Women's Championship 2024 at the iconic Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu.

The stadium has been the stage for countless memorable sporting moments; the battle on Thursday will be yet another feather in its cap.

The match will also be a glorious moment in the dazzling career of seasoned Blue Tigress defender and skipper Ashalata Devi, who will become India's first woman footballer to play



100 international matches. Ashalata is all focused on the game and has set her goals.

"Our first match is against Pakistan, and it's a crucial one for us. The first game always sets the tone, and if we start strong, we can approach the rest with a bit less pressure. It's always exciting to face a team like Pakistan. We have a lot of respect for them. They have grown as a unit. Last time, we won

against them, but we are not taking them lightly. They are motivated, prepared well and will surely put up a good fight," felt Ashalata.

"I feel the competition is much stronger this year, with all the teams making significant improvements. Everyone is dreaming of winning the trophy like us. But this year, we are confident we can bring it home," said Ashalata in a press conference,

The last meeting between the two sides came in September, 2022, in the SAFF Women's Championship at the same venue resulting in a comprehensive 3-0 victory for India.

Never having lost to Pakistan before, India will come into this match as favourites, with a balanced squad having a mixture of young and senior players who have gained international exposure. The team will look to keep the pressure on Pakistan's defence and aim to maintain their perfect record against Pakistan.

For Pakistan, the focus will be on resilience and putting up a much stronger fight than in previous encounters against India. With players like Maria Khan leading the charge and Nadia Khan, who will make a comeback after a

year from her injury, will definitely be no pushovers.

Skipper Maria Khan is an experienced midfielder, who plies her trade for Saudi Arabian pro side Eastern Flames. Two other Pakistan players, goalkeeper Rumaysa Khan and striker Isra Khan, play in Canada and the United States, respectively.

Pakistan Head coach Adeel Rizki said, "I think it will be an interesting match, India have prepared well. They have a new coach as well, so they have new strategies, we don't know what to expect. It's a good rivalry. We respect them in terms of how they play and what they've done in the past. On the other hand, we have done well and have grown a lot from last time. We hope we can perform and have a good game against India tomorrow."

Denmark Open: Sindhu enters second round; Treasa-Gayatri, Sumeeth-Sikki exit

AGENCIES
ODENSE, OCT 16

Indian shuttlers endured a tough day at the Denmark Open Super 750 tournament on Wednesday, with the country's challenge in both women's and mixed doubles ending in heartbreaking first-round defeats.

The women's doubles pairing of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand fought valiantly but ultimately fell to Malaysia's fifth-seeded duo, Pearly Tan and Muralitharan Thinaah, in a grueling three-game match. After taking the first game 21-19, the Indian pair couldn't maintain their momentum, losing 17-21 and 15-21 in a battle that stretched for over an hour.

Despite their previous 1-5 head-to-head record against the world No. 7 Malaysian opponents, Treasa and Gayatri gave a strong performance,



showing promise but bowing out early.

In the mixed doubles, the experienced Indian pair of B. Sumeeth Reddy and N. Sikki Reddy also suffered a narrow defeat. The duo was edged out by Canada's Kevin Lee and Eliana Zhang after a nail-biting contest that lasted one hour and two minutes. After winning the first game 22-20, the Indians were unable to close out the match, losing the next two games 19-21 and 22-24 in an agonizingly

close finish.

While the doubles pairs faced early exits, India still had hope in the singles events. The lone bright spot for India came from double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, who moved into the second round of the women's singles. Sindhu was leading comfortably 21-8, 13-7 when her opponent, Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po, retired midway through the second game, gifting the Indian a safe passage into the next round.

IPL 2025: Mumbai Indians appoint Paras Mhambrey as bowling coach

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 16

Five-time Indian Premier League (IPL) champions Mumbai Indians (MI) have appointed Paras Mhambrey as their bowling coach, said the franchise on Wednesday.

In a statement, MI said Mhambrey, who was India's bowling coach from November 2021 till their 2024 T20 World Cup triumph in June, will work along with current bowling coach Lasith Malinga, as part of the coaching team under head coach Mahela Jayawardene.

This will be Mhambrey's second stint at MI after previously being part of the support staff when they won IPL 2013, Champions League T20 (2011, 2013), a runner up finish (2010) and two more playoffs appearances in the IPL.

Mhambrey, who was discovered by the BCA Mafatal Bowling scheme under English fast bowling great Frank Tyson in 1990, played two Tests and three ODIs for India from 1996 to



1998. But he had an illustrious domestic cricket career with Mumbai - where he became a member of winning the Ranji Trophy five times. He also holds a Level 3 coaching diploma from the National Cricket Academy (NCA) and served as coach of Maharashtra, Baroda, Vidarbha (2016-17) and Bengal in domestic cricket before entering the national set-up - first as India A and U19 sides coach, then becoming a trusted member of the Rahul Dravid-led coaching staff. Mhambrey also coached India U19 team to runners-up finish in the 2020 U19 World Cup in South Africa. He earned widespread acclaim for his time with the senior Indian team, where India emerged as a menacing bowling lineup, via thorough analysis, man-management skills and solid tactical planning.

Indian team hasn't cracked it individually & collectively on playing T20s, says Anjum Chopra

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 16

Before the Indian team's departure to the UAE for the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur claimed that the 15-member side was the best group ever playing the showpiece event in the shortest format.

But all of it came crashing down when India lost to 58 runs by New Zealand in their tournament opener at Dubai and from there, they were just playing catch up till the writing on the wall came clear: of them suffering a group-stage exit in the T20 World Cups for the first time since 2016.

Former India captain Anjum Chopra said the side hasn't really found success in playing the shortest format, whether individually or as a whole unit, leading to their early exit from the T20 World Cup. "I do feel that Indian team is a work in progress in terms of playing T20 cricket. They still haven't been able to crack that

code individually and collectively as to how to play T20 cricket."

"Certain players, starting with Harmanpreet Kaur, because she plays in the middle order or probably sometimes at the top order, she knows exactly when she has to pace the innings. But I can't say the same for everyone else. It's not just because they've lost in the World Cup. I've said these words even before that Indian team is a work in progress."

"When they played their first match against New Zealand, I thought they were a little under-prepared and possibly they didn't expect New Zealand to come hard at them, which is again very wrong. It's because when you're playing a World Cup, you have to expect every team that they are also in the World Cup scenario to win it, not just to participate. So that was wrong." "Then once that realisation happened when New Zealand started hitting the way they were attacking the ball, I felt the awareness of them to



quickly turn things around and maybe bat much better than what they fielded, it didn't happen. The shell shock approach from the first two overs till the 40th over was just there, very much visible for the Indian team," says Anjum in an exclusive conversation with IANS from Dubai. She also pointed out that India never the feel of a team who were there in the UAE to win the tournament. "So once they had that setback, coming against Pakistan was just about winning for them, which I thought was a very defensive approach. You can expect that also to happen because you've

just lost the first game."

"Now you're trying to stay in contention in the tournament. Then again, Sri Lanka, there was a slightly much better performance, but not a convincing performance individually. By the time Australia came, you needed all units to fire." "Australia will not give you opportunities to come back in a contest or maybe give an iota, especially when they know that they were missing their captain. So in totality, I thought they were behind the game rather than being ahead of the game and that was there throughout the tournament." "So individual-

ly, I don't think they had arrived the way. If you want to win a World Championship, you arrive for it. Yes, Australia has a stronger team. We all know that, but at least arrive for the tournament in a style that or in a manner that you're there it to win it, not just to participate, but that didn't happen with the Indian team."

This year, India played T20 series against Australia, Bangladesh, South Africa, before becoming runners-up in Asia Cup. Strangely, they didn't play an international game after that till the clash against New Zealand happened on October 6. Instead, India had two preparatory camps at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru.

While one camp was around fielding and fitness, along with a sports psychologist coming in, the other had skills work at the forefront, apart from five intra-squad games held in Bengaluru. But Anjum felt despite all the preparations, similar mistakes which caused India's

downfall previously had come back all over again in the UAE.

"I felt that the mistakes or staying behind the game, what was there in the earlier T20 events or a World Cup still happened there. You can't keep doing the same mistake. Then that means either your preparation is incomplete or you haven't learnt the skill."

"The same mistakes cannot happen again and again. If the same mistake is happening, then definitely there is a miss in either the skill level or preparation or adaptation. So that needs to be identified and that needs to be clubbed. Changing people, and setups is not going to just solve it."

"We have everything in our country. BCCI provides us with everything in our country from preparation to games to whatever a player requires to become a world champion. So I think that's taken care of. It's up to how, as players, they're able to utilize everything to their advantage," she concluded.

NEETU DAVID INDUCTED IN ICC HALL OF FAME ALONGSIDE COOK AND DE VILLIERS

AGENCIES
DUBAI, OCT 16

India's masterful women spinner Neetu David has been inducted in the ICC Hall of Fame alongside South African multi-format icon AB de Villiers and England Test great Alastair Cook. "Following a process conducted among existing Hall of Famers, senior executives, and global cricket media, three names have been added to the long list of cricketing legends that comprise the ICC Hall of Fame: Alastair Cook, Neetu David and AB de Villiers, who join as inductees 113, 114 and 115 respectively," the ICC said in a statement.

Neetu, who is the current chief selector for Indian women's team, became the second Indian woman after former captain Diana Edulji to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame. The 47-year-old was a widely admired figure for India during her career thanks to her skillful left-arm spin, a weapon that saw her become the first Indian woman to take 100 wickets in ODIs.

Early success in the ODI format set her on the



path to becoming the first woman from her country to take 100 ODI wickets, a feat which included a memorable campaign in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2005 in South Africa, where she topped the list of wicket-takers with 20 wickets at just 8.35 apiece to help India to the final for the first time.

She remains second on India's leading ODI wicket-taker list, and her bowling average of 16.34 is the best by any bowler who took at least 100 wickets in that format - male or female. Neetu marked the 100th Women's Test to be played with figures of eight for 53 against England at Jamshedpur, the first eight-wicket haul in Women's Test cricket and figures that remain a world record to this day.

Having originally announced her retirement

from international cricket in June 2006, she subsequently reversed that decision in time to help India win the 2008 Asia Cup in Sri Lanka.

"It is truly an honour to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame, something that I consider to be the highest recognition available to anyone who puts on their national team jersey. This comes after a lifetime of dedication to this great sport, and it caps a very special journey for me to get to this point.

To be considered a Hall of Famer alongside the greatest players that ever lived is humbling, and I am thrilled to be part of this exclusive club," Neetu was quoted by ICC in a release.

Former captain Cook represented England over 250 times in international cricket, making his most significant impact in the

longest format. He retired from international cricket in 2018 as England's highest Test run-scorer and century-maker, spearheading notable successes both home and away with the bat and as captain.

"It is a huge honour to join some of the greatest players to have ever played the game. I have always felt very fortunate to have had the opportunity to play for Essex and England and so to have this latest honour given to me just makes it all the more special," cook said.

Completing the lineup is South African great De Villiers, who enjoyed a remarkable career spanning 14 years, during which he hit over 20,000 international runs across all three formats. In 2015 he set blistering new records for the fastest 50, 100 and 150 in ODIs during unforgettable innings of 149 and 162 not out against the West Indies, the latter of which came in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2015 at Sydney.

He retired from all formats in 2018 averaging over 50 in both Tests and ODIs, and thanks to a specialist skillset in T20Is, he

flourished in franchise leagues around the world.

"It is a tremendous honour to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame, joining a select group of cricketers to be recognised in this way," said De Villiers.

"Cricket is often described as an individual sport within a team game... and it's true that, whether you are a batsman taking guard at the crease or a bowler pausing at the start of his run-up, you - and only you - are responsible for what happens.

"That said, everyone who plays cricket understands it is, in spirit, a team game. And I know I would have achieved nothing without the help and support of so many teammates, coaches and support staff from my early days at school in Pretoria, through so many memorable days at the Titans and with the South Africa team - and, indeed, in franchise cricket - all around the world," he added.

The Class of 2024 will be celebrated in a special series of engagements in Dubai this week, coinciding with the conclusion of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup.

ISL 2024-25: Chennaiyin FC aim to stretch unbeaten away start against NorthEast United FC

AGENCIES
GUWAHATI, OCT 16

Chennaiyin FC will look to prolong their unbeaten away start to the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 season against NorthEast United FC on Thursday, with the two teams set to meet at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati.

CFC have been on the road for two out of their first three matches this season. Speaking to the media ahead of their third away match, Chennaiyin head coach Owen Coyle praised NorthEast United while highlighting the need for his team to be more clinical.

"What you have is two very good teams," Coyle told the media. "Two very attack-minded teams, going all out to win a tough game. NorthEast [United] are always a very dangerous opponent—they were last year and they certainly are this year. I think Juan Pedro Benali has done a fantastic job."

"Equally, we know we have a good team, we



know we have good players and can stand toe-to-toe with the best teams in this league when we are at our best. So that's our focus, being very respectful of our opponents but focusing on our qualities. In truth, we should probably be sitting with 7-9 points; in the last two games alone, we had just under 40 chances, so we know we have to be more clinical," he added.

Due to heavy rainfall in Chennai, the Marina Machans had to travel to Guwahati prematurely and resume training away from home. Coyle expressed gratitude to the Highlanders for their sporting integrity in opening their gates early and

also wished for the safety of those back home.

"We haven't been able to train for the last three days because of the severe weather in Chennai. But, more importantly, we want to make sure everyone's safe and well, so that's the priority," Coyle said. This was echoed by left-back Ankit Mukherjee, who joined Coyle for the presser. During the international break, CFC's Lalrinliana Hnamte made his international debut for India, while Farukh Choudhary returned to the fold with a goal. Coyle emphasized their achievements and confirmed that they had returned to training ahead of the NorthEast United match.

JKSTIC hosts one day awareness programme on 'Drug Abuse and Drug Addiction' at GHSS Chiryai in Tikri

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 16

J&K Science, Technology and Innovation Council, Department of Science Technology, Udhampur organized Mega event including Symposium and Poster making competition here today at GHSS Chiryai.

Shruti Khanna District Coordinator, Department of Science and Technology organized the event.

The Awareness Programme on drug abuse and drug addiction was inaugurated by the school Principal Shama Devi, while Renu Kotwal Sr. Lecturer Physics Boys GHSS Udhampur Dr. Sashim Sansar Medical Officer Tikri were the guests of honour at the event.

Cluster of Government and private institutions of Chiryai area participated in the poster making and symposium on the sub-



ject. The objective of organizing this event was to make aware and save the youth from drug abuse and drug addiction. The welcome address was presented by Lovely Gupta Sr. Lecturer Physics.

The Guest Lecture was delivered by Dr. Sashim Sansar Medical Officer Tikri. The event concluded with the distribution of trophies, cash reward and certificates to the best

performing students, in both the events.

Students Rajeema Begum GHS Samole won first prize for symposium, while second prize was bagged by Pooja Devi GHSS Chiryai, Third Prize was secured by Rohit Singh GHS Samole while Anil Kumar HSS Chiryai Shivani HSS Chiryai Manav Salaria Rubia Akhter GHSS Chiryai were awarded consolation

Prize. In the 2nd event of poster marking competition students Kritika Jaral GHSS Chiryai, Arushi Verma GHSS Kotli Jijan Suhasini Singh and Safa Akhter GHSS Chiryai were awarded 1st, 2nd, 3rd consolation prizes.

The event was concluded with the presentation of Vote of Thanks to senior citizens Judges Medical Officer Tikri and Department JKSTIC.

DDC Shopian meets lease holders of mineral blocks

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 16

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today chaired a meeting with District Mineral Officer (DMO) Shopian and lease holders of mineral blocks of the district in order to seek compliance on sustainable and scientific mining activities.

During the meeting, the lease holders were reminded about their responsibilities for conducting the mining activities as per statutory requirements and guidelines.

DMO Shopian, Naseer Ahmad apprised that 20 mineral blocks exist in the district and submitted the status of mineral blocks, their activities by way of adhering to norms of sustainable mining, etc.

The DDC on the occasion engaged in comprehensive deliberation on



various environmental, social and economic parameters of mining in the district.

The lease holders were instructed to restrict the mining up to the approved depth only and submit EMP/ CER accounts for corporate environmental responsibility along with installation of signages for displaying identification

of blocks and compliance to other norms of environmental conservation and protection.

DDC asked for taking up afforestation initiatives, development of grazing lands, green belt development and strictly adhering to air, water and noise quality control and preservation, conservation and protection of endan-

gered flora and fauna in their allotted blocks.

The DDC laid special emphasis on fulfilling their corporate social responsibility (CSR) and also asked for detailed work wise plans under the initiative.

The meeting was also attended by DIO Showkat Hussain and other concerned.

Chairman DLSA Samba chairs UTRC meeting

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, OCTOBER 16

District Legal Services Authority, Samba as per the directions of National Legal Services Authority conducted third Undertrial Review Committee meeting as per the NLS Schedule for conducting UTRC meeting for the year 2024.

The main objective of launch of this Schedule by NALSA is to enhance the efficacy and impact of the UTRC meetings by establishing a fixed quarterly schedule for the year 2024.

The meeting was chaired by Pr. District & Sessions Judge-cum-Chairman DLSA, Samba Ravinder Nath Wattal, with the members of Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) Samba.

The Committee reviewed cases of eligible UTPs/Prisoners shortlist-

ed by the Secretary, DLSA Samba for consideration. The Committee considered 22 cases of UTPs/Prisoners out of which 3 Cases were recommended for release and 2 were recommended to the concerned Court for appropriate action.

The meeting was attended by Sandeep Singh Sen, Secretary District Legal Services Authority, Samba, Rajesh Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Samba, G. R. Bhardwaj, Addl. SP on behalf of Senior Superintendent of Police Samba. Besides these, Veerinder Bhat Sr. Superintendent, Central Jail Kotbhalwal, Koushal Kumar, Superintendent, District Jail Kathua and Harish Kotwal, Superintendent District Jail Amphala, Jammu joined the meeting through Virtual mode and also Legal Aid Defense Counsels attended the meeting.

GMC Srinagar hosts CME on 'Integrating Genetics in Clinical Practice' to commemorate 'World Anatomy Day'

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16

Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar today hosted a Continuing Medical Education (CME) event, titled 'Integrating Genetics in Clinical Practice,' to commemorate 'World Anatomy Day.'

The one day CME was aimed to emphasize genetics-based diagnosis, targeted therapies, and improved patient outcomes.

Principal/ Dean Govt Medical college Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan inaugurated the event.

Chief Guest of this CME, Prof. Kulbeer Kour Ex HOD of Anatomy, GMC Srinagar congratulated the department of Anatomy for playing a proactive role in keeping pace with the latest trends in the field of Anatomy and also threw light on how genetics can be integrated in clinical



practice.

Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan in her address emphasised that Anatomy is the foundation of medical science. As future healthcare

professionals, understanding anatomy is crucial for diagnosis, treatment, and patient care.

Prof. Ghulam Mohammad Bhat HOD Deptt of

Anatomy GMC Srinagar deliberated on 'Role of Genetics in Medicine,' highlighting its diagnostic, predictive, therapeutic, and preventive roles.

Prof. Bashir Ahmad Shah, Prof. (Dr.) Abdus Sami, Dr. Javed Ahmad Khan, Dr. Uzma Rasool, Dr. Maheen Nazir and other speakers highlighted the importance of study of genetics and its role in diagnosis and treatment

The CME provided a platform for knowledge exchange, professional growth, and networking opportunities.

Administrator Associated Hospitals, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Deputy Registrar Academics Dr Mohammad Saleem Ittoo, HODs and faculty members also attended the day long CME.

The CME was attended by various heads of departments, faculty members, delegates, and students.

Kashmir Marathon: SDC SKIMS-Soura imparts BLS & First Aid Training to 200 volunteers



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16

In view of Kashmir Marathon, scheduled to be held on 20th October 2024, Skill Development Center (SDC) SKIMS-Soura imparted BLS (Basic Life Support) and First Aid Training to 200 volunteers and officials deployed by Tourism Department Kashmir at Main Auditorium Hall of SKIMS Soura.

Various Faculty members from SKIMS provided detailed presentations

regarding BLS & First Aid Training to all the participants, and also provided hands on training on mannequins in order to meet any eventuality during Kashmir Marathon 2024.

Director SKIMS, Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie applauded the efforts of Skill Development Center -SKIMS and other faculty members for imparting such useful training to volunteers and officials of various departments whose services shall be utilized during Kashmir Marathon 2024.

DC Ganderbal reviews Great Lakes Trek Permissions & Maintenance

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 16

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyamir today convened a crucial meeting to discuss issues related to the Great Lakes Trek, its permissions, maintenance and associated matters.

The meeting, held in the V.C. Room of the DC Office, Ganderbal, was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Gulzar Ahmad; CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, SDM Kangan, SDPO Kangan, Manager JKTDCA Sonamarg, Tourist Officer SDA Sonamarg, and other concerned officials.

The meeting focused on key challenges affecting the Great Lakes Trek and Thajwas Glacier, including the establishment of a designated base camp, trek route maintenance, and improving safety measures.

The DC instructed the development of the existing base camp site at Lashpathri and tasked the CEO Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) to coordinate with the Tourism



Department to ensure the availability of basic facilities at the camping site. The absence of a formal base camp has led to tourists and operators camping on the Sindh River banks, which poses environmental hazards and safety risks.

He emphasized the need for better telecommunication services along the trek route, especially at Naranag, and directed that solutions be explored to improve communication systems for trekkers.

Environmental sustainability and waste management were highlighted as critical concerns, with the DC calling for a strict

'Leave No Trace' policy to be implemented to curb the waste dumping occurring along the trek routes, camping sites, and Sindh River banks.

He urged the Tourism Department to devise a comprehensive trail management plan, including eco-friendly, all-weather signage along the trek.

Regarding trek permissions, it was decided that all permissions will be issued exclusively by the Tourism Department. Tourist Officer Sonamarg was directed to share the permission details with all relevant agencies, including the Police and Army, who guard the higher

reaches of the trek.

Additionally, the meeting discussed the enhancement of facilities at the base of the Thajwas Glacier.

The DC directed the CEO SDA to explore options for improving tourist conveniences, including the provision of toilets, portable tea stalls and other essential services.

The DC stressed the importance of coordination between the security forces, civil administration, and the Tourism Department to ensure smooth and safe trekking experiences in the district.

JMC Commissioner inspects status of civic amenities in Municipal areas

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 16

Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav conducted a comprehensive tour of several Municipal wards of the City to assess the basic amenities available to residents within the municipal jurisdiction.

During the tour, Dr Devansh covered key areas including Akalpur, Durga chak, and Sangrampur.

Interacting with the local residents, the Commissioner outlined the Municipality's commitment to enhancing sanitation facilities through the construction of community and public toilets as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. He emphasized the importance of these initiatives in promoting cleanliness and improving the quality of life for the community.

Responding to the grievances projected by the locals through the grievances cell, Dr Devansh assured them that their genuine concerns regarding JMC would be priori-



tised while other demands would be forwarded to the appropriate authorities for further action. He also highlighted the need for repairing and renovating existing assets and construction of new assets for the convenience of locals.

Stressing the significance of maintaining cleanliness in the wards, Dr. Yadav called for community involvement in waste management efforts. He encouraged

residents to utilize dedicated vehicles for door-to-door refuse collection, saying that it would go a long way in contributing to the success of the Swachhta mission.

Dr Devansh informed that JMC is contemplating to develop the parks in newly established municipal wards for providing recreational facilities for local residents.

The local public representatives also met with the Commissioner and

projected demands of public interest.

Among others, Joint Commissioner (H&S) Abdul Star, Joint Commissioner (W) Firdous Ahmad Qazi, Deputy Commissioner (North) Sanjay Badyal, Health Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma, Executive Engineers from UEED and PHE (Jal Shakti), and other senior officials of Jammu Municipal Corporation accompanied the Commissioner during the tour.