

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

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

**Watch out for dengue warning signs!**

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Severe stomach pain
- Redness on the skin
- Small red spots on the skin
- Difficulty breathing
- Fluid accumulation in the chest
- Severe fatigue
- Weakness

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## J&K Cabinet passes resolution seeking statehood

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCT 18 (UNI)

In its first resolution, the Jammu & Kashmir Cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, called for the restoration of statehood.

Official sources said during the first meeting on Thursday, which was presided by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the J&K Cabinet passed a resolution urging the Central government to restore statehood for the J&K.

It is learnt that Omar will travel to New Delhi to handover the draft of the resolution to the Prime Minister and urge him to restore statehood as it existed before August 4, 2019. There was no official word from the government over the resolution and other decisions passed by the cabinet.

In a social media post, Omar said that in the inaugural meeting with his cabinet colleagues they delved into crucial administrative matters and outlined the government's immediate priorities.

"...The cabinet scrutinized pressing govern-



ment challenges, with a keen focus on enhancing efficiency, resolving public complaints, and fostering transparency within the bureaucracy. Our primary objectives for the new administration encompass strengthening infrastructure, healthcare, education, and employment prospects throughout Jammu and Kashmir," Omar said.

Meanwhile, Peoples Conference chairman and MLA Sajad Lone expressed his concerns regarding the resolution on statehood, questioning why such an important resolution was shrouded in secrecy, with limited media coverage.

"...And I very humbly state that will of the people of J and K is reflected in

the Assembly and not in the cabinet. Cabinet is a majoritarian institution of governance. It does not reflect all shades and opinions as per the will of the people of J and K. All across the country, to the best of my knowledge, Assembly is the proper institution for addressing major issues like that of statehood or Article 370. When the NC Government passed a resolution on autonomy they passed it in the Assembly not through a cabinet resolution. What has changed now," Lone said in a post on X.

"Fail to understand why this resolution should not have been reserved for Assembly. Why are we so keen to trivialise everything. Would have loved

to see which way BJP and other parties vote on statehood and on Article 370 resolution when it is presented in the Assembly," he added.

Lone also mentioned a few lines out of the NC manifesto for 2024 Assembly elections, which said that they strive for the full implementation of the Autonomy Resolution passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in 2000 and strive to restore 370-35A, and Statehood as prior to August 5 2019.

"In the interim period We will endeavor to redraw the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, and the Transaction of Business of the Government of Union

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Newly elected MLAs to be administered oath on Monday

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCT 18

The newly elected MLAs of Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly will be administered oath on Monday by MLA Eidgah, Mubarak Gul, who was appointed as pro tem speaker by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday.

The LG today appointed Mubarak Gul, six-time MLA, as pro tem speaker of the Assembly for administering oath to newly elected MLAs. The oath-taking ceremony will take place at the Legis-

**5-year term of J&K Assembly to begin from October 21; 6-time MLA Mubarak Gul appointed as pro tem speaker**

lative Assembly complex here on Monday at 2: 00 PM.

The pro-tem speaker is appointed as the temporary speaker when a new legislative assembly session begins and till a full-time speaker is elected by the MLAs.

As per news agency, after appointment of the

pro tem speaker, who would be administered oath by LG Manoj Sinha, the Legislative Assembly secretariat has asked all newly elected MLAs to attend the oath-taking ceremony.

This would be the first time that MLAs of Jammu & Kashmir would be administered oath of alle-

giance to the Constitution of India. Before scrapping of Article 370 and reorganisation of J&K, MLAs in the erstwhile state were administered oath of allegiance to the Constitution of Jammu & Kashmir.

The oath would make MLAs eligible to participate in proceedings of the House.

The five-year term of J&K Assembly will begin from October 21, the day when first sitting of the House will be held.

As per section 17 of Jammu & Kashmir

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## J&K Govt announces Jammu Master Plan 2032

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCT 18

The Union Territory administration has announced a groundbreaking revision of the Jammu Master Plan for 2032 (JMP-2032), marking a significant step toward transforming Jammu into a sustainable and vibrant urban centre.

"This comprehensive framework prioritises heritage conservation while addressing the pressing needs of urban expansion," a government spokesperson said in a communique issued to the news agency.

The revised plan expands the city's planning boundaries dramatically, from 112 sq. km to an impressive 777.84 sq. km, incorporating 351 villages from Jammu and Samba

**Revised framework expands city boundaries to 777.84 sq. km, focuses on heritage conservation, infra improvements, affordable housing solutions**

for better management of the rapid population growth the region is experiencing.

A central focus of JMP-2032 is sustainable infrastructure development. "The plan aims to revamp essential services such as transportation, water supply, and waste management," the spokesperson added, introducing significant upgrades like widening existing roads, constructing new bridges, and creating a mixed transportation network. These initiatives will improve mobility and reduce congestion, making daily commutes easier for residents.

Environmental preservation is another key element of the plan. With Jammu's unique geographical features, the administration emphasizes

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Offering Dy Speaker's post to Opposition not a new thing, says BJP leader Ashok Koul

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCT 18

As the Omar Abdullah-led government has decided to offer the Deputy Speaker post to the BJP, the party's General Secretary Ashok Koul said that they will first elect the Leader of the Opposition before making any decision on the Deputy Speaker position.

Senior National Conference leader and seven-time MLA Abdul Rahim Rather is likely to be the new Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. While, the National Conference leadership has decided to offer the Deputy Speaker post to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the second-largest party in the House after the National Conference, which will serve as the main opposition party.

BJP General Secretary Ashok Koul said that offering the Deputy Speaker post to the opposition was not unprecedented. "During the PDP-BJP government, when the NC was in opposition, its leader Nazir Gurezi was made Deputy Speaker. This is not something new. We will first elect the Leader of the Opposition, and then party leaders will take a decision on the Deputy Speaker's post," Koul told.

In 2015, when the NC was reduced to just 15 seats, the PDP-BJP government, headed by the late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, had given the post of Deputy Speaker to the NC. Accordingly, Nazir Gurezi was elected to the post, while the position of Speaker went to BJP's Kavinder Gupta, followed by Dr. Nirmal Singh.

Mubarak Gul, who served as Speaker in the National Conference-Congress coalition government for about two years and is also a seven-time legislator, is expected to be sworn in as Pro-tem Speaker, most likely on Monday.

The Pro-tem Speaker will be administered the oath by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. He will then administer the oath to all newly elected MLAs.

## Chief Minister visits Cabinet colleagues, Advisor to congratulate them on assuming office



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 18

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today personally visited the office chambers at Civil Secretariat here of his Cabinet colleagues to congratulate them on formally assuming their respective duties.

The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt congratulations to Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, and Cabinet Ministers Sakeena Itoo, Javed Ahmad Rana, Javid Ahmad Dar, Satish Sharma and Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani.

During his visit, Chief

Minister Omar Abdullah was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani. Omar expressed his confidence in the newly appointed ministers and Advisor, expressing hope that they would carry out their responsibilities diligently and contribute to the effective governance of the Union Territory.

He highlighted the importance of their roles in advancing the government's developmental agenda and ensuring the welfare of the people.

The ministers, in turn, expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the Chief Minister's visit and his encouraging words. They reaffirmed their

commitment to working collectively under his leadership to deliver on the promises made to the public.

Earlier today Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor allocated portfolios to the newly inducted Ministers in Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led council of ministers.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary is holding the charge of Public Works (R&B), Industries and Commerce, Mining, Labour and Employment, and Skill Development.

Sakeena Itoo has been assigned the charge of important ministries of Health and Medical Edu-

cation, School Education, Higher Education, and Social Welfare.

Javed Ahmed Rana has been allocated the departments of Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs.

Javid Ahmad Dar will be the minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative, and Election.

Satish Sharma has been assigned the charge of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science and Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports and ARI and Trainings.

## LG allocates portfolios to Ministers

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCT 19

Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Friday allocated the portfolios to the newly sworn in ministers.

As per an order issued by the LG, a copy of which lies with the news agency, in pursuance of rule 4 (2) of the Transaction of Business of the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Rules, 2019, 1, the Lieutenant Governor assigned the charge of the Ministers.

As per the order, Surinder Kumar Choudhary (Deputy Chief Minis-

- Dy CM to gets R&B, Industries & Commerce
- Sakina Health and Medical Education, SE, Hr Edu
- Javid Rana to hold charge of Jal Shakti, Forest, TA
- Javid Dar gets Agriculture, RD, PR
- Satish Sharma Food, CS&CA, Transport, YSS

ter) will hold Public Works (R&B), Industries & Commerce, Mining, Labour & Employment and Skill Development.

"Sakeena Itoo will hold the charge of Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare. Javed Ahmed

Rana Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs. Javid Ahmad Dar Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative, and Election," the order reads, a copy of which is with the news agency, adding that

"Satish Sharma will hold

the charge of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and ARI & Trainings."

The order said that any other departments/sub-jects not allocated to any of the Ministers.

## CM reviews development activities in various departments



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 18

Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah chaired a general but significant review meeting of several departments today here at Civil Secretariat.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister assessed developmental scenario of Jammu and Kashmir while also assessing the performance and progress of various government departments. Chief Minister asserted Government's commitment to transparency and accountability in its functioning.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Minister for Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo; Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana; Minister

for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election, Javid Ahmad Dar; Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma; Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, and administrative secretaries were also present during the meeting.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo presented a detailed briefing, highlighting the notable achievements of various departments, the current status of ongoing projects, and the deadlines for completion of projects.

Discussions included future strategies to improve governance and enhance service delivery across Jammu & Kashmir.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reiterated the necessity of adhering to deadlines and urged his cabinet colleagues to actively monitor and review the departments assigned to them.

"The reviews will provide us with a clear understanding of where we stand and help us move forward effectively," he stated.

Omar Abdullah further announced that his office would also begin reviewing other departments directly under his purview, ensuring comprehensive oversight of government functions.

"The government is committed to fostering a transparent and accountable administration, and it is vital that each department works in unison to deliver the benefits of development to the grassroots level," the Chief Minister added.



## Capacity building program on YUVA Udyami Vikas Abhiyan held in Udhampur



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 18

A one-day capacity building program on the implementation of YUVA Udyami Vikas Abhiyan was organized by the District Employment and Counselling Centre, Udhampur here today in collaboration with the District Administration.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Prem Singh; Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Iqbal; Assistant Commissioner Development Dr. Ranjeet Singh Kotwal; District Statistical and Evaluation Officer, Darshan Kumar and

other officers from the line departments also attended the event.

Key speakers, Navdeep Kour, CCO, DE&CC Jammu, Ajay Thapa, Lecturer, representatives from Government Polytechnic College Jammu, NABARD, Yash Paul, DNO, JKEDI Udhampur and J&K Bank, shared valuable insights on credit enabling, youth entrepreneurship, and collaborative strategies to drive the mission forward.

While addressing the participants, the ADC urged officers of the line departments to raise awareness among the

youth about project YUVA. He emphasized the importance of the mission and encouraged participants to commit to its objectives, highlighting how entrepreneurship not only benefits individuals but also brings transformative changes to communities.

The event concluded with closing reflections by Priyanka Gupta, Assistant Director, District Employment and Counselling Centre, Udhampur. Participants left with renewed energy and ideas to foster sustainable livelihood opportunities for the youth of the region.

## DLSA Budgam organizes Awareness Programme on Rights of Third Gender

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, OCTOBER 18

In accordance with the J&K Legal Services Authority calendar of activities for the year 2024, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam today conducted a Legal Awareness programme on Rights of Third Gender.

The programme was organized under the guidance of Chairman DLSA (Principal District and Sessions Judge) Budgam and under the supervision of Secretary DLSA Budgam.

The event held in collaboration with AL-Asma educational institute Budgam, witnessed the active participation from students, teaching and non teaching staff of School, LADCs, officials and PLVs of DLSA Budgam. The resource person Shahrukh Bhat (Deputy LADCs), thoroughly discussed the



day's topic. He briefed the audience about the rights of the third gender and emphasized upon that there is need to address the crucial issues such as gender inequality, and limited access to health-

care and education. In his speech, he also said that there is a need for a mass awareness campaign especially in inaccessible areas of the society.

Advocate Feroz Ahmad also spoke on the occa-

sion. Amongst other speakers, student Shah Fatima (8th), Irtiza Zehra (9th) and Seerat Khadija (10th) also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the real issues faced by the third gender in this contemporary world. They urged upon the listeners that they should consider themselves as the brand ambassadors of the programme and should raise awareness on the issues faced by the third gender at the individual level.

Principal of the institution hailed the move of DLSA Budgam for organizing such a good programme on a very good topic and visa-a-vis choosing their school as venue. In her address she said that the need of the hour is to adopt a holistic approach from all the stakeholders of the society for the protection of the rights of the third gender.

Gandhi Memorial College organizes Camp to serve attendees of Urs Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani (R.A)

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 18

The NSS wing in collaboration with Red Ribbon Club, Gandhi Memorial College Srinagar organized a camp on the eve of the Urs of Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani at Khanyar. The camp was aimed at promoting social service and connecting with the Sufi heritage of Kashmir. As a part of the camp, the college distributed traditional Kashmiri Kehwa to the attendees, with about 1000 cups of tea and Bakirkhanis being distributed. This gesture not only provided refreshments to the participants but also highlighted the rich culture and traditions of Kashmir. The main focus of the camp was to instill a spirit of social service among the youth and to promote unity and harmony in society.

## ACD inspects development works at Model Panchayat Chatroo Lower A



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHITWAR, OCTOBER 18

Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Kishitwar, Phulail Singh today visited Model Panchayat Chatroo Lower A of Block Inderwal to review progress and ensure effective implementation of District Development Commissioner Kishitwar Rajesh Kumar Shavan's initiative to develop 13 Gram Panchayats as Model Panchayats across the district. This attempt is to achieve saturation of all scheme indicators, benefiting the local community.

During the visit, Phulail Singh met with the Village Monitoring Committee of Model Panchayat Chatroo Lower A, local residents and Ex-PRIs discussed Panchayat's progress and challenges. Block Development Officer (BDO) Inderwal, Hitesh Kumar and other RDD officials were also present.

The BDO was directed to identify the gaps and submit proposals for rain-water harvesting, plantation, PMAY-G, IHHLs under SBM-G. The BDO was further directed to ensure cleanliness of the panchayat and attain grey

water management with the help of local population. The ACD Kishitwar also inaugurated the Unnati training program for Job card holders who have completed 100 days of work under MGNREGA. This program will enhance rural youth's skills and employability. Director RSETI, RSETI staff and RDD staff were also in attendance.

The District Administration is committed to transforming rural areas of District Kishitwar into vibrant and self-reliant communities through effective governance.

## DDC B'la reviews progress of works under District Capex Budget, SSY, Aspirational Block & other Sectors



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 18

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting at the DC office here to review the progress of works under various components of District Capex Budget 2024-25, including Aspirational Block, Aspirational Panchayat, and other related sectors of public importance.

At the outset, the DDC took a comprehensive sector wise review of the progress of deliverables under the district CAPEX budget for 2024-25 of all the pertaining departments, including R&B, Animal Husbandry, Revenue, Education, and others. On the occasion, the DDC was appraised in detail by the department heads with regard to works allotted, tendered,

and the status of works completed in other sectors.

After taking the individual department wise review, Minga Sherpa stressed to the concerned department heads to take all possible measures to accelerate the pace of work in view of the approaching winter.

Meanwhile, the DDC directed the officers present to meet the developmental targets set for the financial year 2024-25 within the allocated timeframe and ensure maximum realization of expenditure by the end of December.

Furthermore, Minga Sherpa instructed the department heads to coordinate effectively in resolving any bottlenecks related to land issues and other matters that might impede the progress of development initiatives.

## DDC Rajouri reviews progress of work on NH, Nowshera Tunnel Project

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 18

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today conducted an on-site inspection of the development works on National Highway (NH) and the ongoing construction of Nowshera Tunnel project being executed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

The visit aimed to assess the pace and quality of work on these critical infrastructural projects and address any bottlenecks to ensure timely execution. Accompanying the DDC during the visit were Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Nowshera, Babu Ram Tandon, and senior officers from the BRO. The inspection team reviewed the construction progress, interacted with the engineers on the site, and evaluated the alignment and design aspects of the tunnel and highway construction.

The Nowshera Tunnel, a key component of the NH project, is set to significantly improve connectivity in the region by facilitating smooth vehicular movement, especially during adverse weather conditions. This tunnel, when completed, will reduce travel time and enhance road safety by bypassing treacherous sections of the existing highway.

During the inspection, DDC Abhishek Sharma



stressed the importance of adhering to the project deadlines and maintaining high-quality standards. He highlighted the significance of the tunnel and highway for the overall development of the region, ensuring better connectivity for residents and improving access to essential services. Sharma also directed the officers of BRO to expedite the work without compromising on the technical standards and safety measures.

"The Nowshera Tunnel is a strategic project that will serve not just as a critical transportation link but will also boost local trade and economic activities. It is crucial that we complete it on time and ensure it serves its intended purpose," said DDC Sharma.

ADC Nowshera, Babu Ram Tandon, briefed the DDC about the administrative support being extended to the BRO for the smooth execution of the

project. He assured that all necessary steps are being taken to ensure the availability of resources and resolution of any issues that may arise during the construction phase.

The BRO officers also provided a detailed overview of the technical challenges faced, including terrain difficulties and weather conditions. However, they assured the DDC that all efforts are being made to overcome these hurdles and complete the project within the stipulated timeline.

The DDC Rajouri, in concluding the visit, emphasized that the district administration will continue to closely monitor the progress of the project and coordinate with BRO to resolve any impediments swiftly. He further instructed that regular progress reports be submitted to his office to ensure that the work remains on track.

## Deputy Commissioner Reasi reviews arrangements for festival season



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, OCTOBER 18

Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan chaired a high-level meeting here today to review arrangements for the upcoming festive season, including Diwali. Key areas of focus included uninterrupted power supply and consistent water availability.

The DC instructed enforcement agencies to constitute special market

checking team to oversee the quality, quantity, and pricing of goods, with focus on sweets and gift shops to keep check on overcharging. The police were instructed to take strict measures to prevent drunk driving to ensure public safety.

Fire and Emergency Department was directed to stay on high alert, while asking for restricting the firecracker sales in non-crowded areas. The meeting decided to

deploy Apda Mitra volunteers at the tehsil level to ensure prompt emergency response. Cleanliness, illumination of temples, and public spaces was prioritized.

ADDC Sukhdev Samyal, ADC Kulbushan Khajuria, ACR Anshumali Sharma, ACD Pardeep kumar, Tehsildar Suresh Singh and Mehak Mahajan, DIO info Ujwal Sambyal and other officials attended the meeting.

## Jammu hosts Mission YUVA workshop to boost youth entrepreneurship

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 18

A one-day capacity building program under the ambitious Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan) was organised today in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Jammu. The event, held under the supervision of the District Development Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya focussed on equipping young people with the skills and entrepreneurial spirit needed to generate sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The program brought together district officers, Block Development Officers, Child Development Project Officers and experts from various sectors. Notable speakers included Director Skill Development



J&K, representatives from the Government Polytechnic College, NABARD and J&K Bank, all of whom shared their expertise on topics ranging from credit facilitation to fostering youth entrepreneurship.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Skill Development, O.P. Bhagat, high-

lighted the importance of creating an environment conducive to entrepreneurship, stating, "We must cultivate an atmosphere where entrepreneurship can thrive, as this will not only empower our youth but also generate much-needed employment. A target has been set to facil-

itate the establishment of over 1.37 lakh enterprises across the region."

Representatives from J&K Bank emphasised the bank's role in providing financial support to young entrepreneurs, while experts from NABARD focused on the collaborative strategies that could

drive the mission forward, particularly in rural areas.

The program concluded with closing remarks from the Assistant Director District Employment & Counselling Centre, Mukhlis Ali who expressed optimism about the path ahead for the region's youth.



## GCW Udhampur organises Mehndi competition



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 18

Government College for women Udhampur today organized an inter-house mehndi competition in the college premises.

The event was organized by the student welfare committee and Heritage club to commemorate the festival of Karva Chauth largely celebrated in North India.

The event started with the formal welcome of principal of the college, Dr. Nalini Pathania by convener student welfare committee, Prof. Swarna Bhogal (HOD Political science) by presenting her a

floral token of respect.

In her opening remarks, the Principal appealed to the students and staff to uphold their cultural identity by celebrating such events. She also remarked that mehndi or henna has many cultural and symbolic meanings and is applied in Indian weddings and other celebrations. Mehndi symbolizes good luck and positive spirits. It is believed that the longer the mehndi color lasts, the luckier the couple will be.

While speaking on the occasion convener student's welfare committee motivated the students on the scientific aspect of mehndi application as it

helps in stress relieving, headache and fever. It is applied on the hands and feet, which have many nerve endings.

As many as 50 students participated in the event, Where Manvi, Asma and Nancy were judged 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. Dr. Seema Sharma (HOD Music) Dr. Indu Khajuria (HOD Chemistry) and Dr. Geetanjali Rajput (HOD English) acted as judges in the event who were very fair and rational in their judgment.

The formal vote of thanks on this occasion was presented by Prof. Shama Rani from the department of Dogri.

## DC Shopian visits Bus Stand Batapora, interacts with traders

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 18

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today visited Batapora Bus Stand and took stock of cleanliness in and around the Bus Stand.

The DC also made an inspection of the shopping complex of Municipal Committee Shopian at Batapora. He instructed the Executive Officer, MC, Shopian for auctioning of all the 52 shops and constructing the 2nd floor of the said Shopping Complex for business purposes. He also interacted with the shopkeepers and traders who put forth their issues for early redressal. The DC



heard them patiently and assured of resolving their genuine demands as per norms on priority.

Later, the DC visited and inspected the proposed site for the establishment of the Public Library at Gagren Shopian, and directed the Block Development Officer, Shopian for setting up the Public Library in the same building promptly.

The DC desired the establishment of the dis-

trict library which will provide library services to students preparing for different examinations and shall be equipped with all facilities.

The DC was accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone during the visit. Besides, BDO Shopian, Executive Officer, MC, Shopian and other concerned were present at the site.

## DDC Chairman Dhananter Singh Kotwal attends Annual Day celebrations at GHSS Bhalra

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, OCTOBER 18

District Development Council (DDC) Chairman, Dhananter Singh Kotwal, graced the Annual Day celebrations at Government Higher Secondary School Bhalra, where students captivated the audience with vibrant cultural performances. The event was also attended by the CEO and DEPO, adding to the significance of the occasion.

In his address, Chairman Kotwal highlighted the importance of focused mentorship in education. He encouraged teachers to form small groups of 10 to 15 students to be monitored and mentored by a dedicated teacher. He emphasized that this approach would enhance the capabilities of students and facilitate their all-round development.

The Chairman Kotwal praised the students for their outstanding performances and awarded those who excelled in their examinations with



special recognition. The celebrations also included the inauguration of newly completed tile work in the school, a project completed by the Rural Development Department (RDD)

under the DDC grant. The event marked a major milestone for the school, celebrating both new infrastructure and the students' remarkable achievements.

## DLIC Shopian approves 75 cases under Mission Youth schemes



SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 18

The District Level Implementation Committee meeting was held today at Shopian to approve the cases of Mission Youth schemes of Mumkin, Tejaswini and Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative.

The meeting was chaired by District Development Commissioner, (DDC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar. At the outset, a comprehensive review of the progress and impact of Mission Youth schemes was conducted by the DDC.

The Nodal Officer (Mission Youth), Shopian presented 40 fresh cases under the Mumkin

Scheme, 17 cases under Tejaswini Scheme and 40 cases under Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative.

The committee members scrutinized the cases and approved all 40 cases under the Mumkin scheme, all 17 cases under the Tejaswini Scheme.

The committee also conducted interviews of candidates for cases under the Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative and approved 18 cases.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; ACP, DSEO, AD Employment, ARTO, LDM, DNO, JKEDI Career Counseling Officer, Employment officer DE&CC and others.

## Farmers' Awareness Programme held at village Kotli Manotrain, Reasi

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 18

To generate awareness among the farming community, the Department of Horticulture conducted Farmers' Awareness Programme at village Kotli Manotrain, Reasi under the chairmanship of Director Horticulture Jammu, C. L. Sharma.

Addressing the gathering of farmers of the area, C. L. Sharma briefed the farmers about the various central and UT sponsored schemes of the department in detail. He urged them to come forward and avail incentives under different schemes of the department.

He impressed upon farmers to start Horticulture activities on commercial lines by adopting latest technologies including plantation of Modified High Density Plantation, Strawberry Plantation by using Drip irrigation, protected cultivation etc. He highlighted the schemes offering incentives for mechanization, digging of Bore Well, construction of Water harvesting tanks for upliftment of their socio-economic status. The Director also distributed fruit plants of different kinds among the participants on spot.

During the tour of district Reasi, he visited Govt. Fruit Plant Nursery, Dagozi Bagh & Raj Bagh and took stock of the various developmental works being carried out in the nurseries.

Later, he convened a meeting of the Extension and Nursery staff of the district to review the implementation of different schemes especially HADP, CAPEX & JKCIP and progress thereof. He directed the staff to achieve the allotted targets under all schemes well in time so that the funds may be utilized in full.

Chief Horticulture officer Rajinder Kumar Lochan briefed the Director about the various developmental works being carried out in the district. He thanked the Director for boosting the morale of the staff and assured him that we will leave no stone unturned to full fill the targets during the financial year.

## One day Seminar on hazards of Drugs abuse held at Poonch



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, OCTOBER 18

To combat the rising issue of drug addiction among the youth, Department of Social Welfare Poonch organized a one day Seminar under the banner of "Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan" here in the Conference Hall of Dak Banglow.

The event was aimed to educate and sensitize students about the perils of drug abuse and the importance of making informed choices.

District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal was the Chief Guest. In his address, DDC Vikas Kundal highlighted the detrimental effects of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society at large. He emphasized the importance of awareness and enforcement measures in combating the menace. He urged students to stay vigilant and seek help if they or anyone they know is struggling with addiction.

He further impressed

upon the participants especially youth to highlight the importance of creating awareness and spreading knowledge to prevent drug abuse and promote sustainable livelihood.

Dr Shahzad Khan (Medical Officer) briefed the participants through PPT on the psychological and physical repercussions of drug abuse. He stressed the significance of a supportive community environment in rehabilitation efforts. He also sensitized the participants to desist from taking medicines and health services from any unregistered medical stores and medicos.

Experts from the Social Welfare and Education department, other resource persons and students from various educational institutions delivered an effective lecture on the topic besides interacting with the participants.

ADC Poonch, CMO Poonch, CEO Poonch, Principal GDC Poonch, DSWO and other Senior Officers were present.

## Mulwarwan fire mishap Member Secretary J&K LSA holds virtual meeting with Secretary Kishtwar LSA

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 18

On the directions of Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority today held a virtual meeting with the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Kishtwar in connection with the recent fire incident at Village Mulwarwan, Tehsil Warwan, Kishtwar.

The meeting was attended by Slahuddin Ahmed, Secretary DLSA Kishtwar, LADCs, panel lawyers and PLVs.

"The prime objective behind this significant and timely initiative is to ensure that the District Legal Services Authority performs its obligation in rehabilitation of victims of fire-incident by ensuring protection of their legal rights", maintained Amit Kumar Gupta. He said that victims of such incidents often face various legal issues because of loss of documents such as identity cards, health cards, property title deeds and other documents which lead to property disputes, non-release of



timely compensation etc. "Our endeavour should be to assist the victims in retrieval or re-issuance of such documents by liaising with government departments and agencies", he added.

Gupta asked Manjeet Singh Manhas, Chairman DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Kishtwar, for constitution of a special team which shall visit the place of incident and assist the victims and their families supporting the rehabilitation process. He also asked for organizing awareness programmes to inform the victims about their legal entitlements under various laws, compensation schemes and other statutory provisions that can aid in their rehabilitation. A legal aid helpdesk has also been decided to be set up at the place of incident.

Amit Kumar emphasized that the intervention of Legal Services Authority

should be for coordinating the integrated, strategic and sustainable development measures taken by the Government for rehabilitation purposes. The thrust of the efforts shall be for strengthening the capacity of victims of the fire incident and to coordinate with the Government departments and non-governmental organizations for providing quick aid to the victims, he added.

Secretary DLSA briefed the Member Secretary about the steps already taken by the DLSA to provide legal aid services to the victims of the devastating fire. He assured that the initiative taken by the J&K Legal Services Authority shall be properly implemented in order to safeguard the rights of fire-affected families besides ensuring that the process of rehabilitation is equitable, just and inclusive.

## Defeated Congress approaches High Court for disguised entry into Assembly: GLR



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, OCT 18

Criticising and condemning Congress party in strongest words for its anti-KP, Anti-POJK Displaced People, former MLC & JK UT spokesperson of BJP Girdhari Lal Raina termed double standards of party responsible for pain and displacement of these communities.

Congress party and INDI Block which is inherently against Displaced Communities because of their religious faith has exhibited its hatred once again by approaching the Jammu and Kashmir High court against nomination of members to the legislative assembly by Hon'ble. LG of the UT.

Ravinder Sharma, a former member of the legislative council and senior vice president of the Pradesh Congress Committee, has filed the petition challenging the provisions of the J&K Reorganisation Act, which grants the Lieutenant Governor the power to nominate five MLAs. It has not learnt anything even after the Supreme Court refused to entertain the plea, lamented EX-MLC.

GL Raina recalled that Congress Party, National Conference and entire INDI Block deceitfully opposed these amendments in both houses of the Parliament in December 2023 when the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was discussed in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on December 5-6,

and December 11, 2024 respectively. Prominent members of Congress party and National Conference who spoke and opposed the Bill include Hassnain Masoodi, Lop Adhir Ranjan Choudary, Manish Tiwari, and Vivek Tankha among others.

"In the Bill, there is a provision to nominate the Lt. Governor. I oppose it", declared NC MP, Raina

quoted Parliamentary proceedings. "The law which this Bill intends to amend has been constitutionally challenged and the matter is pending in the Supreme Court. Therefore, no Bill court against nomination of members to the legislative assembly by Hon'ble. LG of the UT.

Now that the BJP government under the dynamic leadership of PM Narendra Modi ji has ensured measures to provide justice and rights to all those who have been wronged, humiliated and ignored for 70 years these opportunistic parties desire to control and snatch these little benefits also, added GL Raina. He appealed to people to teach these leaders a lesson who after being rejected in polls eye backdoor entry.

## District Road Safety Committee meets at Reasi



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, OCTOBER 18

Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan today chaired the District Road Safety Committee meeting to deliberate on implementation of road Safety Plan in the district.

The meeting extensively discussed the road safety action plan, the Road Safety Act, installation of road signage and traffic calming measures. Seeking strict action against habitual violators, the DC directed transport officials to cancel driving licenses of drivers causing road accidents and issue new one only after they get a driving test pass certificate.

The DC directed XENS from PWD and PMGSY to identify critical sharp turns on roads with deep gorges and install crash barriers at these spots. He also called for timely submission of an audit report of road safety

and bridges to his office. He also instructed them to draw zebra crossings outside education institutions. Additionally, the DC emphasized the immediate start of a special drive by police, traffic and transport for organising Nakkas in view of the upcoming festival Season.

To increase awareness, the DC suggested launching informative campaigns in schools and colleges to educate students on road etiquettes, road safety and traffic rules.

Chief medical officer was instructed to constitute an emergency response team to deal with road accidents.

ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, ADC Kullbushan Khajuria, ACR Anshumali Sharma, SDM Katra, Mahore, Dharmari, XENS PWD and PMGSY, DySP (HQ) Neeraj Padyar, Principal of various GDC, CMO, CEO, DIO and other officers attended the meeting.



## Be considerate with Traders during Festive Season: Warehouse Federation

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 18

Traders Federation Warehouse-Nehru Market Jammu on Friday urged State Taxes Department(GST) to deal with the trader fraternity of the region considerately and facilitate them to make up the losses they have incurred during last couple of years due to COVID-19 pandemic and law and order problems in the UT. A meeting held under the Presidentship of Sh. Deepak Gupta in the Federation office on Friday wherein office bearers discussed various issues concerning traders of Jammu city. Sh. Deepak Gupta said that the GST Department should show a considerate view towards the traders' fraternity and not impose unnecessary restrictions on the name of inspections in this Festive season as the business community is already facing a lot of hardships. He said that Currently, the festive season is going on and traders are expecting good business but due to few officers of the department, businessmen are facing a lot of difficulties. Raising the issue of unnecessary checking after Lakhanpur, Sh. Deepak Gupta said that Jammu and Kashmir is a UT, where up to 90 percent of food items come from other states. We import almost everything. In



such a situation, whatever goods come to us, we have already paid GST on them. Nevertheless, all the goods are checked in Lakhanpur. Now, when all the goods are checked in Lakhanpur, then what is the point of checking by putting nakas at various places? This is just to harass the traders. He demanded that there should be only one check post after Lakhanpur to check goods transporting from Jammu to Kashmir. Apart from this, there should be no check post or naka in Jammu. He alleged that GST deptt. officials are hell bent to damage their business interests by putting Nakas at various places enroute from Lakhanpur to Banihal and

harassing the members of trading community by resorting to undue checking of their vehicles carrying goods from Lakhanpur to Banihal. He termed this whole process as useless because whatever material they are bringing from outside, has already been checked by the GST department at Lakhanpur and they fulfilled all the formalities by submitting GST through e-way bill. Hence there is no need to further check their vehicles by the authorities. By doing so they are just resorting to harassment of the traders. Gupta urged upon Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh. Omar Abdullah and Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister Sh. Surinder Chowdhary to

intervene so that the traders of Jammu may heave a sigh of relief.

Sh. Munish Mahajan, Sr. Vc. President, Sh. Abhimanyu Gupta, Vc. President, Sh. Sham Lal Langer, General Secretary and Sh. Vishal Gupta, Secretary of the Federation, Sh. Rajesh Bhagotra, President Sugar Merchant Association, Sh. Kirti Gupta, President Dal Merchant Association, Sh. Anil Gupta, President Karyana Merchant Association, Sh. Rajesh Gupta, former President Traders Federation and Sh. Rattan Lal Gupta, Former President Traders Federation was also present in the meeting.

## Maharishi Valmiki advocated equality, social justice: Balbir

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 18

The teachings of great saints of India continue to inspire and guide the people of all generations and the path shown by them teach everyone to work for equality and social justice.

Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth National General Secretary & former Vice Chairperson, J&K SC, ST, BC Development Corporation, Balbir Ram Rattan, said this while paying tributes to Maharishi Valmiki when he visited Bhagwan Valmiki Mandir in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

He was accompanied by Vijay Anand Gill, President Jammu and Kashmir Valmiki Samaj, Adarsh Jathiar, General Secretary, Guru Ravidass Sabha, Upper Gumat, Jammu, and other prominent



social activists.

Jang Bahadur, Pradhan of the Mandir Committee and Ram Singh, Mandir Sevak presented siropa as token of respect to Balbir and his colleagues.

Balbir Ram Rattan, while discussing the contribution of Maharishi Valmiki in the literary field, said that one of the great religious book of hindus, Ramayana, was written by him, which is most revered writing work. He stressed for motivating the youth in particular to learn the lives of Indian saints to progress and prosper.

Vijay Anand Gill, on this occasion, said that

the Parkat Divas of Maharishi Valmiki is celebrated every year not only by the Valmiki community but the people of other faiths too join us to pay tributes to such a great saint, which is reflective of the respect for him among every section in the society.

Adarsh Jathiar said that like Guru Ravidass, Maharishi Valmiki, also gave message of universal equality, goodwill and respect for all, without any consideration of one's religion, region or gender. He also lauded the Mandir Committee for organizing functions in memory of Maharishi Valmiki on regular basis.

Chinar Corps Volleyball Tournament concludes, Chalgund Volleyball Team lifts Trophy

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, OCT 18

Indian Army, Chinar Corps, 41 RR organised volleyball tournament at village Halmatpora, Gonipora, Kupwara which aimed at empowering the youths of the village.

This event took place from 15 oct 2024 to 18 oct 2024 as a part of Indian Army ongoing efforts to promote sports, teamwork, and healthy competition among young people in rural areas.

The objective of this event was to Encourage collaboration and sportsmanship among participants, highlight the importance of physical health and active lifestyles and strengthen relationships within the community. Teams of Halmatpora block participated in this tournament.

Final match of this tournament took place on 18 oct 2024, between Chalgund and Gonipora. Chalgund team was overall winner of the tournament. Winners and runners of the event received trophies, medals, and certificates. All participants received participation certificates to acknowledge their efforts.

SSP Jammu holds crime review meeting of Sub-Division,

Akhnoor  
J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 18

Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu, Sh. Joginder Singh, JKPS convened a crime review meeting of Sub-division Akhnoor at the office of SDPO Akhnoor. The meeting was attended by the SP Rural, Jammu, SDPO Akhnoor, SHOs of PS Akhnoor, Khour, Gharota, IC PPS of Chowki Choura, Jouri an, Pallanwala, Pargwal, ICBPPs of Jogwan, Malla Barore, Garkhal. IO's and other officers. Besides congratulate all officers/Jawans for successful and incident free culmination of Assembly elections.

During the meeting, the status of under investigation cases related to NDPS Act, Excise, Bovine smuggling and Crime against women & children were reviewed and in time bound manner. The progress made in ongoing criminal investigations was discussed to ensure timely resolution and justice for victims. Strategies to strengthen community policing and enhance public safety were deliberated upon, emphasizing the importance of community involvement in maintaining law and order. Measures to tackle drug abuse within the district were discussed, with a focus on prevention, rehabilitation and enforcement.

Addressing the officers, SSP Jammu said that the Investigation officers must take all the measures to improve investigation and disposal of cases. He directed that the quality of investigation and disposal of these cases needs improvement and stressed upon them to adopt the latest techniques and standard operating practices which would bring better results in investigation process. Beside this stress was also laid on Beat patrolling and maintenance of Beat Book record. SHOs were directed to ensure regular surveillance of bad characters and their up to date police record.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### J&K Cabinet passes...

Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Rules, 2019. The Jammu and Kashmir assembly, in its first list of business after elections, will pass a resolution against the centre's decision to strip the region of its statehood and special status. The last para says it all. We are not demanding or expecting anything extraordinary," Lone while quoting the NC manifesto.

"Do what you promised the people of J and K in your manifesto," Lone said.

Peoples Democratic Party MLA Waheed Parra termed the passing of the resolution on restoration of statehood nothing less than ratification of the August 5, 2019 decision- when J&K special status was scrapped.

"Omar Abdullah's first resolution on statehood is nothing less than ratification of the August 5th, 2019 decision. No resolution on Article 370 and scaling down the demand to mere statehood is a huge setback, especially after seeking votes on the promise of restoring Article 370," Parra posted on X.

### Newly elected MLAs...

Reorganisation Act, the Legislative Assembly shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting.

Before the 2019 constitutional changes, the term of J&K Legislative Assembly was for six years instead of five years.

### J&K Govt announces...

the importance of "conserving natural drainage channels and forests while also implementing measures to protect sensitive ecological areas from unregulated urban sprawl."

To tackle the growing demand for housing, JMP-2032 proposes new residential areas, including low-cost housing solutions for the urban poor. "This approach aims to create structured urban housing development, addressing the challenges posed by past unregulated expansions and slum proliferation," the spokesperson highlighted.

Heritage conservation remains a priority, particularly for the old city of Jammu, designated as a "Special Zone" within the plan. "Efforts will focus on regenerating this cultural hub while promoting mixed-use development, ensuring that the city's historical and cultural legacy is preserved for future generations," the government said.

The plan also envisions enhancing Jammu's connectivity through transit-oriented development, which integrates land use with transportation planning. Proposed upgrades include "expanding the Jammu Tawi railway station, improving air travel facilities with a new terminal at Jammu Airport, and introducing an electric bus system along with a ropeway project to facilitate public transportation."

The ambitious nature of JMP-2032, especially in terms of infrastructure and housing, underscores the need for significant funding and effective governance. "Public participation and transparency will be vital in aligning the proposed initiatives with the needs of Jammu's rapidly growing population," the spokesperson concluded. With these comprehensive strategies, the Jammu Master Plan 2032 sets a transformative vision for the future of Jammu, promising "a balanced approach to urban development that honors the region's heritage while fostering sustainable growth". KNO

## Golden Jubilee Book Fair, Exhibition draws Enthusiastic Crowds, Showcasing Literary Treasures, Student Talent



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
AKHNOOR, OCT 18

The much-anticipated two-day Golden Jubilee Book Fair and Exhibition was inaugurated today at Army Public School, Akhnoor, marking a significant milestone in the school's history. The event, a testament to the school's focus on holistic education, drew an overwhelming response from students, staff and neighbouring schools. Chief Guest praised the outstanding efforts of the students and staff in organizing the exhibition and making it a grand success. In his address, he commended the dedication and creativity on display and urged the students to continue to aspire toward excellence in all fields.

The Principal, during her address, highlighted the school's commitment to holistic development, emphasizing that this exhibition reflects the hard work and passion of both students and teachers. She noted, "This exhibition is a testi-

mony to our continuous efforts to provide a platform where children can explore diverse interests and talents. Among the various stalls, the Book Fair emerged as the central attraction, drawing large crowds throughout the day. With an impressive array of genres, from literature and science fiction to educational resources and art books, the stall has been a hub of activity, with students enthusiastically browsing and purchasing books. The wide variety of books catered to different tastes and interests, and this diversity has contributed significantly to the exhibition's popularity.

The event also featured stalls showcasing photography, art and craft, live demonstrations of artistic techniques and exhibitions on science, artificial intelligence,

and mathematics. Each stall offered interactive experiences, engaging the students in learning and sparking their curiosity in various disciplines. The creative displays and

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, OCT 18

In continuation of its efforts to maintain connect with Gujar & Bakarwals and resolve their issues, Indian Army interacted with them at Kesri Hill village part of Rajouri District. A total number 150 Gujjars and Bakarwals attended the event. The interaction was

aimed at understanding their problems and issues faced by the community during their migration to higher reaches, their basic requirements pertaining to documentation for migration, awareness about Forest Rights Act of 2006 and education of their children. The locals lauded the efforts of Indian Army for organising such a unique event

for Gujjars and Bakarwals prior to migratory season and listening to various issues and problems faced by the community. This initiative of Indian Army will go a long way in further strengthening and cementing the already existing bond between the Awam and Army and will benefit the Gujar and Bakarwal community to a great extent.

## Gandhi Shilp Bazaar exhibition of exquisite Handicraft, Handloom products concluded in Jammu



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 17

Gandhi Shilp Bazaar, a 7 day exhibition of exquisite Handicraft and Handloom products concluded on in Jammu Haat, Dogra Chowk. This marketing event was organised by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Handicrafts Service Centre, Jammu. Sh. Gulam Abbas, Director, Central Bureau of Communication was present as Guest of Honor to felicitate the artisans, craft demonstrators and different cultural teams. The concluding programme was conducted by Ms. Disha and Sh. Vishnu Bharti. The gathering was addressed by Smt. Ambika

Sambyal, Assistant Director, HSC Jammu and vote of thanks was given by Sh Anirudh Kapil, Sr. Assistant Director, HSC Jammu. In this sale cum exhibition of handicrafts and handloom products 50 artisans and weavers from various parts of India exhibited their craftsmanship by displaying their products for sale in Jammu Haat w.e.f. 11/10/2024 to 17/10/2024. The Exhibition presented different crafts from different regions spanning from bamboo, Jute, Dry Flower and Embroideries and Madhubani painting from Bihar and West Bengal, Kasuti Sarees from South India, Gujarati embroideries and patch work, Banarsi sarees, Stone Carving, Zari Zardosi from Uttar Pradesh,

Woodware and Art Metal Ware from Rajasthan, Phulkari, Wood Inlay and Jutties from Punjab, Kullu Shawls to crafts like terracota, candle, Hand block printing etc from different parts of the country. Apart from this Local crafts of Jammu and Kashmir were also on display like Basohli shawl, pashmina Shawls, Kashmiri Embroideries, Basohli Painting, Binna craft etc. Such type of Exhibition known by the name Gandhi Shilp Bazaar nationwide is first of its kind in Jammu Haat and was admired and appreciated by the visitors. The event was a great success and celebration of diverse Indian crafts under one roof which promotes the idea of Make in India and vocal for local.



## IIPA JKRB organizes prelude conference on "One Nation One Election"

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, OCT 18

Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), J&K Regional Branch organized significant prelude Conference on the theme "One Nation One Election". Prof. Suresh Misra, Chair Professor (Consumer Affairs) at the Centre for Consumer Studies, IIPA, New Delhi, delivered the keynote address. Sh. B.R. Sharma, IAS (Retd), State Election Commissioner and Chairman of IIPA JKRB, served as the Chief Guest, while Shri Kuldeep Khoda, IPS (Retd), former DGP of J&K Police presided over the event.

In his keynote address, Prof. Misra underscored the vital principles of democracy, stressing the necessity for free and fair elections and acknowledged that India has a robust parliamentary system. Prof. Misra explored the concept of simultaneous elections, referencing international examples from countries such as South Africa, Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Indonesia, and the Philippines. He traced the initiative's origins to discussions initiated by former President Sh. Pranab Mukherjee in 2017 and the subsequent formation of a high-level committee under Sh. Ram Nath Kovind. The proposed electoral reform aims to implement a two-step process for Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, with panchayat and local urban body elections within 100 days.



He also highlighted expected merits which include continuity of governance, greater emphasis on policy implementation, reduced expenditure and single voter list. He also acknowledged potential demerits, including the risk of overshadowing regional issues by national concerns and neglecting local needs. He emphasized the importance of building consensus, particularly given the frequency of elections and the necessity of a Model Code of Conduct to maintain electoral integrity.

Sh. B.R. Sharma, in his address, outlined essential concepts underpinning democracy, emphasizing its mechanics and struc-

ture as crucial for fostering greater accountability. He highlighted the significance of making democratic processes which empower citizens and enhance their engagement with the government. His insights reinforced the critical role of informed citizen participation in strengthening democracy and ensuring that governance remains transparent and responsive to the needs of the populace.

In his presidential remarks, Shri Kuldeep Khoda emphasized the importance of collating diverse opinions to drive major electoral reforms. He discussed the necessity of a coordinated approach in managing elections,

particularly in deploying security forces to ensure a smooth electoral process. Shri Khoda highlighted the intersection of preservation and internal security during elections, referencing the influential contributions of Sh. T.N. Seshan, a former Chief Election Commissioner, and underscored the significance of the Delhi Elections 2019 as a case study in effective electoral management. He however cautioned citizens to judiciously use social media to ensure that a positive and favourable environment to strengthen the democratic process.

Sh. K.B. Jandial, IAS (Retd), Vice Chairman in his welcome address set

the context for the conference by discussing the multifaceted implications of the "One Nation One Election" proposal. Prof. Alka Sharma, Honorary Secretary, presented the formal vote of thanks, while the proceedings were conducted by Prof. Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary. The program was attended by officials from the State Election Commission, media representatives, faculty and students from the University of Jammu, members of IIPA, and eminent individuals from civil society and the Central Government Pensioners Association, Jammu.

## Indian Army distributes Personal, Cattle Medical Kit at Surankote Poonch

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, OCT 18

Indian Army distributed Personal and Cattle Medical Kit to the local Gujjar and Bakkarwals at their place of residing, by APDs and Patrols undertaken in the entire Kulali and Marhot. Furthermore, small camps were also established at various Locations being occupied by the migrating Awam in the Kulali and Marhot. The incentive was aimed to provide essential primary healthcare services to the residents and cattle's in Surankote and nearby villages in the Pir Panjal ranges comprising of complete migratory population of Gujjar and



Bakkarwals. Known for its poor road infrastructure and lack of basic medical facilities, area faces significant challenges in accessing healthcare. The primary focus was to reach out to the Gujjar & Bakkarwal Community residing in the area and Dhoks of Higher Ridges of Pir Panjal Ranges. During the camp, general health check-ups were conducted and free medicines were distributed. This initiative

ensured the health and well-being of the local population and animals by making healthcare more accessible. The villagers expressed heartfelt gratitude for the care and attention they received. This effort highlights the Indian Army's commitment to community welfare and was widely appreciated by those in attendance, further strengthening the Indian Army's image as a nation-building force. A total 262 locals to include (165 men, 73 women and 24 kids) and approx. 475 cattle's (all king) benefited from this event. The overwhelming turnout of locals was a testament to the success of this campaign.

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION UDHAMPUR

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
E-NIT JSPHEM/UDHR/ 350F 2024-25 DATED 16-10-2024

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur, on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered firms who have sufficient experience in the relevant field of electro-mechanical/ electrical works.

Sl.	Name of the work	Qty	Name of Division	Cost of Tender Document / Tender Fee (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Bid validity
1	Replacement of wornout components of 3000 GPH x 320 meter head HC pump set at pumping station Thaley stage-2 <sup>nd</sup>	01 job	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	Rs. 200.00 (Non-refundable in shape of treasury challan in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	(Rs. 1300.00) 2% (in case of non-registered firms) Or (Rs. 650.00) 1% (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	90 days
2	Replacement of wornout components of 5000 GPH x 250 mter head Hc pump set at pumping station RittiBarta stage-1 <sup>st</sup>	01 job	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	Rs. 200.00 (Non-refundable in shape of treasury challan in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	(Rs. 1300.00) 2% (in case of non-registered firms) Or (Rs. 650.00) 1% (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	90 days
3	Replacement of wornout components of 3000 GPH x 200 meter head HC pump set at pumping station Pinger stage-2 <sup>nd</sup> (Old).	01 job	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	Rs. 200.00 (Non-refundable in shape of treasury challan in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	(Rs. 1300.00) 2% (in case of non-registered firms) Or (Rs. 650.00) 1% (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	90 days

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 16-10-2024 (18:00 Hrs.)
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 16-10-2024 (16:30 Hrs.) to 25-10-2024 (15:00 Hrs.).
- After opening tender only successful bidder shall be asked for submitting the hard copies of documents with CDR and tender fee
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The technical bid will be opened on line on 28-10-2024 at 11.00 A.M or any other subsequent date in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur.
- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur after evaluation of technical bids. The date shall be communicated separately.

NO. JSPHEMUDHR/2024-25/2456-59  
Dated:-16-10-2024

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division  
Udhampur

DIP/J-5782/24  
Date: 18-10-24

## ASCOMS & Hospital organizes Divisional Round of 37th IAP Quiz for Undergraduates



**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, OCT 18

Department of Paediatrics, Acharya Shri Chan-der College of Medical Sciences & Hospital, Sidhra, Jammu in association with Indian Academy of Paediatrics under the supervision of Dr. Ravinder K Gupta, Prof & HOD, Paediatric organized Divisional Round of 37th IAP Quiz today in the College Auditorium on 17th of October, 2024 in which the undergraduate students from the different medical colleges of Jammu Division participated. Teams from AIIMS Vijaypur (Arushi & Khushi), GMC Jammu (Akansha & Aman), ASCOMS (Abid & Saqib), GMC Doda (Imran & Bilal) and GMC Rajouri (Maryam & Harshita) of final year MBBS participated. The team from AIIMS Vijaypur emerged as winners after defeating team ASCOMS by a narrow margin and qualifies for the zonal round which will be held at Amritsar.

Dr. G.V. Basavaraja, Central IAP President, 2024 in his virtual address

encouraged the efforts of IAP Jammu and ASCOMS Hospital in conducting the Quiz. He praised the Management of ASCOMS for their support in holding this academic event for Undergraduates. He also informed that ASCOMS is having its name and reputation in organizing and encouraging students for participation in such type of scientific activities among the 700 colleges of pan India. He also said that ASCOMS has won many Quiz competitions in the past both at UG as well as PG level which speaks about the zeal, dedication, efficiency and intelligentsia of faculty and students. He gave best wishes for conducting of Quiz. Dr. Ashok Gupta, Ex Prof. & HOD, Paediatrics GMC Jammu was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Dr. G.S Saini & Dr. N.K Pargal were among the Guest of Honours. Dr. K.S. Mehta, Officiating Director Principal and Prof & HOD, Surgery, was also present. The other dignitaries present on the occasion were, Dr. Ashu Jamwal,

Dr. Mohd. Razzak, Dr. Ashwani, Dr. Deepak Gupta, Dr. Priyanaka Sharma, Dr. Pooja Bharti, Dr. Deepak Sharma, Dr. Radhika Uppal, Dr. Rajesh Gupta and Dr. Tahir. Faculty, students and staff members were also present and witnessed the proceedings and enjoyed the Quiz. Speaking on the occasion Dr. KS Mehta, lauded the efforts made by Dr. Ravinder K. Gupta, Prof. & HOD Deptt. of Paediatrics, President IAP Jammu and his team for organizing such type of scientific activities. Dr. Ashok Gupta, the Chief Guest while speaking on the occasion, lauded the team from department of paediatric for conducting this scientific activity under the guidance of Dr. Ravinder K Gupta and he also praised the Management of ASCOMS for holding this activity.

Dr. Manoj Sharma, Assistant Professor, Paediatrics was the Organizing Secretary of this activity while Dr. Vikas Mahajan, Assoc. Professor, Dr. Sushil Sharma and Dr. Wajid Rana were

the Quiz Masters. Dr. Vikas Sharma, Dr. Anandi Gandotra and Dr. Deepanshu Saini also assisted in smooth conduct of this scientific activity. Dr. Ravinder K. Gupta, Prof. & Head Paediatrics & also a National Convener highlighted the significance of IAP Quiz. He laid stress on importance of such type of academic activities in UG Curriculum and also said that this type of activity infuses competitiveness among the students which helps them in cracking further competitive examinations. The participants were felicitated by the dignitaries.

### Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

#### Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospital Division Udhampur (E-mail- xenmdudh@gmail.com)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) e-tenders are invited in two cover system, from reputed and registered firms for the job mentioned below:-

S.NO.	Description of work	N.I.T No	Estimated/ Approved Cost (In Lacs)	Earnest Money/ Performance Security	Cost of tender documents	Time of completion	Eligibility Criteria of Bidder	Tender Receiving Authority
01	Day to Day repair and maintenance of Restoration of damaged compound wall by raising the height in the premises of Mech. and Hospital Division Udhampur Tender ID 2024_PWDJK_260495_1	E-NIT No. MHDU/TS/ 66 of 2024-25 Dt.:- 16/10/2024 Due on:- 28/10/2024	1.197 (Lac)	<b>Earnest Money</b> 2% of estimated amount, amounting to Rs. 2395/- only shall be submitted by all Participating Bidder in the shape of CDR/FDR/DR/BG. <b>Performance Security</b> 5% of the contract value shall be submitted by the lowest Bidder before the allotment of work order in the shape of CDR/FDR/DR/BG.	Rs. 200/- (Fixed Amount) in the shape of challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to MH-0059(PWD) Misc. Revenue and uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt on e-tendering portal OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in shape of e-challan through Account No. 002801020000009, J&K Bank, Udhampur, of Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Udhampur	20 (Twenty days)	Registered/ Reputed Mechanical firms having sufficient experiences for the similar nature work	Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division Udhampur

Position of Funds:- (Available) Position of AA/Tech. Sanction:- (Accorded)

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, terms & conditions, Bill of Quantities can be seen / downloaded from the J&K govt. website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

No: MHDU/TS/ 1863

Dated:- 16/10/2024

DIP/J-5784/24  
Date: 18-10-24

-sd-  
(Er. Daljeet Singh)  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical & Hospital Division  
Udhampur



## EDITORIAL

A MULTIFACETED PERSONALITY

# DOGRA PRIDE – A MAN OF GRET WILL RESPECTED PILLAR OF THE SOCIETY

JUSTICE K.K. GUPTA (RETD.) ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 94TH BIRTHDAY WHICH FALLS ON 19th OCT

## Azad's DPAP loses on the electoral front!

The recent 2024 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections have underscored an important shift in the political landscape of the region, particularly highlighted by the disappointing performance of Ghulam Nabi Azad's Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP). Despite his considerable political pedigree and the ability to draw large crowds, Azad's party failed to secure any Lok Sabha seats and made no electoral gains in the Assembly polls. This outcome is not merely a personal setback for Azad but a reflection of the electorate's growing disillusionment with regional parties and their leadership. Azad's journey in politics has been storied. A former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and a long-time Congress stalwart, he was once seen as a pivotal figure in the political fabric of the region. His tenure from 2005 to 2008 was marked by significant development initiatives, showcasing his capacity to govern effectively. However, his decision to resign from the Congress party in 2022, citing the erosion of the consultative process under Rahul Gandhi's leadership, marked a critical turning point in his career. This move not only severed his long-standing ties with the Congress but also prompted him to form the DPAP, which he positioned as a progressive alternative. The 2024 elections have revealed the fragility of Azad's new political venture. Despite his popularity and a robust campaign, the electorate in the Valley has shown a clear preference for the National Conference-Congress alliance, which emerged victorious with 47 seats. This alliance managed to resonate with voters despite the Bharatiya Janata Party's efforts and its controversial decision to abolish Article 370 in 2019, a move that was intended to integrate Jammu and Kashmir more fully into the Indian Union but has sparked significant discontent among local populations. Azad's failure to make an electoral mark, particularly in the Valley, signals a broader rejection of regional political narratives that have dominated the discourse in Jammu and Kashmir. The electorate's decision reflects a desire for stability and a departure from traditional party politics that have often been marred by infighting and regionalism. This sentiment was particularly pronounced in the context of the National Conference and Congress, who, despite their historical rivalries, managed to present a united front, tapping into a collective memory of governance that Azad could not replicate with his new party. The implications of this electoral outcome extend beyond Azad's personal political journey. It serves as a stark reminder of the shifting allegiances and evolving priorities of the Jammu and Kashmir electorate. The lack of traction for the DPAP raises questions about the future of regional parties in a landscape increasingly dominated by national narratives and coalitions that offer clear, cohesive platforms. Azad's strategic acumen and experience as a minister have been overshadowed by the electorate's demand for change, showcasing a growing impatience with traditional political figures. As the dust settles from the elections, it becomes evident that Azad's challenge will be to rethink his political strategy and engagement with voters. The road ahead may require not just a reassessment of policies but a deeper understanding of the aspirations and grievances of the people he seeks to represent. Azad's setback in the 2024 elections is emblematic of a broader trend in Jammu and Kashmir, where the electorate is increasingly moving away from established regional parties. It underscores the need for political leaders to adapt to the changing dynamics and sentiments of their constituents. As political landscapes continue to evolve, the story of Azad and the DPAP serves as a crucial chapter in understanding the complexities of governance and representation in one of India's most sensitive regions.

RAVI ROHMETRA

Our Jammu has been blessed with the honour and producing sons and daughters of the noblest kind. Justice K.K. Gupta Ji, an illustrious shining star, the son of the soil of Jammu adorably occupied the highest conspicuous seat of Justice is one of the such respectful social activist and respectable eminent legal luminary in Jammu and Kashmir Judiciary. Justice Gupta a retired High Court Judge and renowned personality of the state was born on 19th October, 1930 in a highly respectable family of Udhampur to father Shri Faquir Chand Gupta and mother Late Smt. Durga Devi. He graduated in Law from Delhi university in first division at a young age of twenty two and joined Government service as a Prosecuting Inspector, Qualified for KCS (Judicial) and appointed Munsiff in 1960. By virtue of his devotion, dedication and fair dealings he was appointed as Judge of J&K Court. He gave some memorable judgements and was known for his boldness, independence and fairness. He added some very important and sensitive commissions like Backward Classes Commissions, Delimitation Commission etc. Honoured on many occasions by different agencies for his meritorious services to the society. An outstanding sportsman especially in Hockey and Volleyball, during his academic career, he is a very social person who takes keen interest in the affairs of his community and its betterment. He has done a yeoman's job in the construction and renovation of the Dev Sthan of his clan (Jandial Biradari) at Gole Gujral and the establishment of Charitable Hospital named as Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan Charitable Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. Both these institutions have been developed by Public contributions under his dynamic leadership. He is a very soft spoken, docile and helpful person who helps the needy and donates liberally for their cause. He is a highly contented person

who leads a simple life. Married Vishnu in 1950 at a young age of 18 years, he is a god fearing person who has firm faith in him and his dictates. His regular and simple habit is the secret of young and cheerful looks.

His grandfather Late Sh. Shiv Ram was Tehsildar at Bhaderwah from where he was transferred to Srinagar where he remained with his family or some time and constructed house at Tankipora. His father was studying in college at Jammu when at Udhampur he was picked up by Chief Engineer, an Englishman, as my father was speaking English fluently and offered him to be his P.A. Justice Gupta father at the age of 17 years accepted to be his PA where he remained for some time when the said Chief Engineer took him to Peshawar where he was Chief Engineer Railways. His father was posted as Accounts Clerk from which post he rose to Accounts officer. His father served with him at Karachi, Hyderabad, Calcutta and ultimately in Delhi.

Justice K.K. Gupta early education had at Udhampur in government primary school and government high school Udhampur. He studied in 8th and 9th Class in DAV School Srinagar and S.R. High School Jammu respectively. After matriculation from Udhampur he joined MAM college Jammu in 1946 and graduated from there in 1950. Thereafter, he joined faculty of law Delhi University one of the most premier university in India and obtained degree in law in 1952. Justice K.K. Gupta (Retd.) immediately started practicing in the court. In 1953, he was selected as Prosecuting Inspector and got Police Training at Srinagar for one year. He was doing practical training at Jammu where he was inducted in KCS Judicial service of the state, he was posted as Government Prosecutor Udhampur and after serving there for some time, he was appointed as Munsiff. With his hard work, honesty and the zeal to serve the nation he made a great name in the field of law and in 1960 he was awarded with the post of Munsiff



that marked his entry in the judiciary. Thereafter, he scaled the heights of judiciary and retired as acting Chief Justice of High Court. He served at various places as Munsiff. He was promoted as Sub Judge and after serving as such he was transferred as Chief Judicial Magistrate Jammu where he remained for more than three years and then he was promoted as District and Sessions Judge. He also remained as Vigilance Commissioner Registrar High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and then as District and Sessions Judge Jammu, where he was more than three years. He was posted at Kathua where he was elevated as Judge High Court of Jammu and Kashmir. He took over this assignment in early August 1984 and remained for more than eight years as such he was also officiating Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court for some time. After retirement in October, 1992 he have held various commissions. In April 1993, he was asked to take over as Chairman of Backward Classes Commission which he chaired with assistance of two members and secretary in year 1993. He was also nominated as President Dharmarth Trust by Dr. Karan Singh Chairman Trustee of the said religious trust. He was God fearing man. He with the help of Secretary Trust Shri D.P. Khajuria retired Director Agriculture of the State and able administrator, able to generate funds for the trust and renovate and maintained the temples of Jammu region, Kashmir at that time was in the grip of militancy and we could not do anything for the temples of the trust at that place but Deputy Secretary posted there was looking after and maintaining Mata

Keher Bhawani temple and Shankaracharya Temple. After remaining for Shankaracharya temple. After remaining for four years in the trust, as some bad elements crept in, we decided to opt out of it. Justice K.K. Gupta married to Smt. Vaisnho Rani. Mr. Gupta was married at the age of 18 years when he was studying in 3rd year of Graduation at Jammu. His wife belong to Chenani. He was appointed as Chairman Delimitation Commission of Jammu and Kashmir as then Chairman Justice Mian Jalal-Ud-Din has resigned. I completed the process with the help of two members, a serving Judge of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Deputy Election Commissioner of Govt. of India and with this our report the Election Commission of India was able to hold elections in the state in 1996. Thereafter, Government of Jammu and Kashmir appointed him as a one man commission to hold enquiry against cabinet minister Shri Ansari which he completed within short period. In the year 2006 he was asked by then Governor of Jammu and Kashmir General Sinha to hold enquiry to one man commission in regard to allegations made by various quarters about the formation of Holy Shivilingam. Being ardent disciple of Lord Shiva he accepted the assignment and went to Srinagar. Shri D.P. Khajuria another God fearing man, was appointed as Secretary and he accompanied him. From Srinagar we proceeded to Holy cave and made enquiries. He recorded the statements of about one hundred persons including some experts of glaciers and of artificial snow formation process. He held the accu-

sations leveled against the trust as totally false. The enquiry was completed within shortest period of about two months.

He is Chief Patron of all Jammu and Kashmir Mahajan Sabha. He was earlier taking active part in it as it is doing good work assisting the other communities. This sabha is having large property which is maintained properly by its President and other office bearers. Justice K.K. Gupta is also Chief Patron of Jandial Mahajan Biradari which is also doing tremendous work for the welfare of its members and public. He is also a Chief Patron of Shiva Temple trust Railway Station Jammu which is having large property maintained properly by its President, Secretary and Members. He was also a Chairman of Swami Dhirender Brahmchari Trust which is having large property but there are some elements made it controversial and he had no choice except to leave it. He was also a patron of Jammu Yatri Bhawan, Haridwar which is religious accommodation having huge property and is being maintained properly by its President and members. However, he was never idle even after that as he was offered many honorable and responsible posts from time to time which he graciously agreed to due to his zeal to serve the nation.

He was appointed as :-  
 □ Chairman of Delimitation Commission in 1992.  
 □ Chairman of the Backward Classes Commission in 1993.  
 □ Chairman of the Delimitation Commission again in 1994.  
 □ President Dharmarth Trust J&K from 1993 to 1996.  
 □ Chairman of the Enquiry Commission against Police Officials in 1997.  
 □ Chairman of Enquiry Commission against J&K Cabinet Minister Mr. Ansari in 1999.  
 □ One man Commission of Amarnath Ji Shiv Lingam Controversy in 2006.  
 □ Chairman Dhirender Brahmchari's Trust.  
 His guidance and blessings have been a beacon light for K.K. Group since

its inception. He has always shown us the right path through which we could not only achieve financial success but also serve the society through charity and social work to our maximum capacity.

### Family Background

Justice K.K. Gupta were three brothers and three sisters. At present Justice Gupta the only surviving members of the family. Mr. Gupta have two daughters and two sons and all are married. Mr. Gupta's two sons Anil Gupta and Sunil Gupta are Electrical Engineers and after serving the Power Development Department of Jammu and Kashmir in various capacities become Chief Engineers. Their children are settled in life. Mr. Gupta's elder brother Late Sh. P.L. Gupta was Law Secretary in J&K State from where he was selected in Central Legal Service and joined Ministry of Law, Government of India as Deputy Secretary. There he got scholarship from California University USA and after studying for 14 months, he was conferred with LL.M Degree. He was, thereafter, promoted as Joint Secretary in Law Ministry. After a gap of some years, he was, thereafter promoted as Joint Secretary in Law Minister. After a gap of some years he was selected by the UNA as legal Advisor and deputed to Trinidad Port of Spain where he stayed for five years after which he was deputed to Sierra Leone. This desert country was not to the liking of his brother and serving there for about six months he resigned. His children settled in USA and he also opted to live with them. He died at New York USA at the age of 94. His last rites were, however performed at Haridwar. His brother Late Sh. D.R. Gupta was businessman and well settled in life. His two sons were doctors and two in legal profession. His son Sushil Gupta was Additional Advocate General but died at young age. His second son was Justice V.K. Gupta of J&K High Court but he too died while in service.

**Writer and Social Activist**  
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## Empower urban local bodies for climate resilience

SONAL SINGH

Cities are centres of economic growth, contributing around 63 per cent to India's GDP while housing approximately 36 per cent of its population. This urban population is expected to reach 50 per cent by 2050, further intensifying the challenges cities face from extreme weather events such as heatwaves, floods, and droughts as recently witnessed in Wayanad, Chennai, New Delhi and other cities. According to a study by IIT Gandhinagar, the proportion of urban areas exposed to extreme weather events is set to increase significantly as global temperatures rise beyond 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. While the growing vulnerability is felt across rural and urban centres, the multiplier effect of damage caused to urban infrastructure, lives and livelihood on the larger socio-economic conditions as cities drive national GDP.

Moreover, most of the cities are ill-equipped to tackle these climate risks. A lack of clearly mandated roles in climate response, insufficient financial allocations, and limited institutional capacities exacerbate this challenge. To enable transformative, city-led climate action, it is essential to align Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the specific needs and capacities of cities. This requires designing enabling frameworks to help urban areas build climate resilience. Without such frameworks, cities may struggle to cope with mounting climate risks. India has played a very proactive role in shaping policy and strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The country's early adoption of environmental policies can be traced back to the Environmental Protection Act of 1986, a direct result of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment

(Stockholm Conference) in 1972. This laid the foundation for key initiatives such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in 2008 and the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) in 2015. India has also spearheaded international efforts, including the establishment of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

At the sub-national level, 34 States and Union Territories have prepared State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCC) to address state-specific vulnerabilities in line with the NAPCC framework. Although the concept of city-level Climate Action Plans (CAPs) is relatively new in India, cities are developing these plans to address local risks such as heatwaves, water scarcity, and flooding for example, Mumbai, Coimbatore, Rajkot, Siliguri, and Udaipur.

These climate action plans

are often in collaboration with international networks like C40 cities supported by global donor agencies. However, a major limitation remains: Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) do not have a clear mandate to respond to climate challenges. While the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 assigns ULBs certain responsibilities, such as urban forestry and environmental protection, "climate change" is not explicitly mentioned among the 18 functions designated to ULBs. This creates a significant governance gap at the local level. Although the National Mission for Sustainable Habitat (NMSH) 2.0 encourages ULBs to design action plans as one of the key strategies, it falls short of providing concrete guidelines, financial assistance, or incentives to assist city governments in these efforts.

The absence of a designated decision-making authority at the city level further compounds the problem.

While the SAPCC guidelines call for establishing climate cells at the state level, there is no similar provision for cities. Even when ULBs do develop climate action strategies, their implementation is hampered by overlapping mandates across multiple agencies and parastatals, with no centralised body to oversee or coordinate these efforts.

Additionally, national climate policies such as the Net Zero by 2070 target and NDCs do not mandate the collection of city-level greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data, limiting the ability to undertake data-driven climate actions. As India transitions towards a more urban future, with 50 per cent of the population estimated to live in cities by 2050, amid rising climate risks, the devolution of powers to ULBs for climate governance becomes crucial. Empowering local governments through the principle of "climate subsidiarity"—which ensures that

climate action is undertaken at the most appropriate level by adequately resourced and empowered agencies—can be a key step toward achieving climate resilience and national climate goals. One such long-term measure often suggested by experts involves amending the Constitution to include "climate action" as one of the functions of ULBs.

While constitutional amendments may be a long-term goal, an immediate step could involve making a comprehensive central law on climate mitigation and adaptation with the city as a unit of governance. Also, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) could update NMSH 2.0 with detailed guidelines for city-level Climate Action Plans. Such guidelines would ensure a standardised approach across cities while allowing for localised strategies aligned with national goals. Additionally, providing financial incentives—such as climate finance or additional transfers from

the State Finance Commission (SFC) or Central Finance Commission (CFC)—would encourage ULBs to initiate climate risk assessments, implement green mobility projects, and undertake other climate-resilient initiatives.

Institutionalising climate governance at the local level is only the first step. Local governments must also be given clear and measurable targets, necessitating the localisation of NDCs and SDGs. Incorporating cities into future updates of the NAPCC and SAPCC would allow for a more bottom-up approach to planning adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Furthermore, establishing a centralised decision-making body at the city level would facilitate better collaboration among city agencies, ensuring a more coordinated response to climate risks.

As global and national conversations on climate action gain momentum, it is imperative to build a similar focus at the sub-national level to

ensure tangible results. The dynamism seen at the national level must be replicated in cities, towns, and districts, which are at the frontline of climate impacts. This will require a realignment of governance structures and a re-evaluation of climate strategies to bring the focus to the smallest units of governance—cities and ULBs.

A blend of long-term strategies and short-term action plans must be developed with sub-national governments to ensure accountability and cohesion in how cities perceive and address climate change. By empowering ULBs with the necessary resources, mandates, and institutional support, India can ensure that its urban centres are not just engines of economic growth but also pillars of climate resilience. This is essential if the country is to meet its ambitious goal of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070.

**(The writer is Research Associate, TERI; views are personal)**



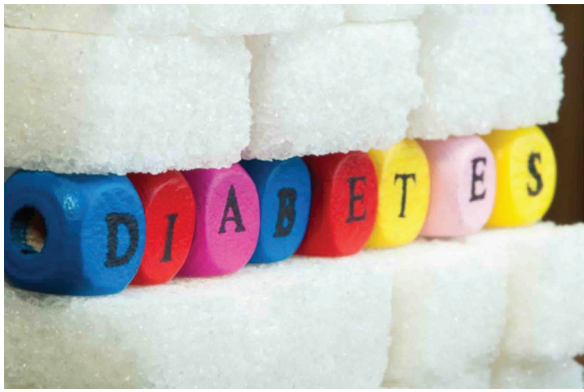
## Paternal intake of diabetes drug not linked to birth defects in babies: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 18

Men with type 2 diabetes planning pregnancy can be reassured that taking the drug metformin may not increase the risk of birth defects in their baby, according to a large study on Thursday.

The findings, based on more than 3 million pregnancies and published by The BMJ, showed that metformin can continue to be considered a suitable drug for managing blood sugar levels in men planning to have children.

While metformin is widely used to treat type 2 diabetes in men of reproductive age, a recent Danish study reported a



link between metformin use by fathers-to-be and an increased risk of congenital malformations, particularly genital, in male infants.

To understand, researchers from Taiwan and Norway set out to evaluate the link between

the two.

They used national birth registries and prescription databases and identified 619,389 babies with paternal data during the period of sperm development (three months before pregnancy) in Norway during 2010-21, and 2,563,812 in

Taiwan during 2004-18.

Gut hormone in fruit flies found to extend lifespan, result important to humans: Researchers'

Among these, fathers of 2,075 (0.3 per cent) babies in Norway and 15,276 (0.6 per cent) babies in Taiwan used metformin during the sperm development period.

Looking at only men with type 2 diabetes, and adjusting the father's age and related conditions, the team found no increased risk of any congenital malformations among infants born to those who used metformin during the sperm development period in neither Norway nor Taiwan.

And no notable increas-

es in risk were also found for any specific organ malformations, including genital malformations.

"These results provide reassurance and can assist clinicians in making informed treatment decisions when selecting metformin in the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus among men who are planning a family," said the team from National Taiwan University, and the University of Oslo.

However, the team noted that the findings "are observational, so can't establish a cause". They also acknowledged limitations such as inaccuracy in diagnostic data and misclassification of drug use.

## NIGERIA ROLLS OUT NEW MALARIA VACCINE

AGENCIES  
ABUJA, OCT 18

Nigeria on Thursday rolled out a new malaria vaccine that will be given free to recipients, a historic step in the fight against the deadly disease that has killed thousands of children under the age of five in Africa's most populous nation.

Nigerian Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Ali Pate, said 846,200 doses of the vaccine have been procured in partnership with global vaccine group Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Some 153,800 more doses are expected for delivery before the end of this month, totaling 1 mil-

lion doses of the vaccine, he added. The new R21 vaccine was developed by scientists at Oxford University and made by the Serum Institute of India and Novavax.

Pate said ahead of the national rollout, the first phase of the vaccine's rollout will begin next month in the northwestern state of Kebbi and the southern state of Bayelsa, where malaria prevalence has been particularly high. It will be administered as part of the West African country's routine immunization schedule for children under one year of age, with over 800,000 doses set to be distributed during this phase.

"The arrival of the malaria vaccine is a monumental step in our national efforts to reduce malaria morbidity

and mortality," the health minister told reporters.

Nigeria is the third African country to roll out the vaccine following its launch in Ghana and Kenya last year. According to data from UNICEF, Nigeria carries the highest burden of malaria globally, accounting for approximately 27 percent of the global malaria burden and 31 percent of global malaria deaths.

Nearly 200,000 deaths from malaria occurred in Nigeria last year, the UNICEF said, citing the 2023 World Malaria Report. Children under five and pregnant women are the most affected, with a national malaria prevalence rate of 22 percent in children aged 6-59 months as of 2021.

## AIDS Society of India urges government to include HIV self-testing in policies

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 18

The AIDS Society of India (ASI) on Friday urged the government to include HIV self-testing and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medicine, taken to prevent from HIV, in its policies and programmes without much delay.

One in five people living with HIV in the country do not know their HIV status. The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended HIV self-testing as part of HIV care cascade as it is an important approach to address gaps in HIV diagnoses, especially among key populations, in 2019.

"We need to ensure that 100 per cent of people living with HIV know their status so that they can receive full cascade of HIV care services and stay virally suppressed (undetectable viral load) - which is essential for them to live full and healthy lives - as well



as to end AIDS," said Dr Ishwar Gilada, President-Emeritus, AIDS Society of India (ASI).

According to government's fifth edition of National AIDS Control Organisation's (NACO) 'Sankalak report 2023', 79 per cent of people living with HIV (PLHIV) knew their status, 86 per cent of them were on antiretroviral therapy and 93 per cent of them had viral suppression.

The ASI said that this translates into 63 per cent of total PLHIV in India being virally suppressed in 2023 against the target of getting 86 per cent of them virally suppressed by 2025.

"India's role in the global prevention of

HIV-related deaths is unmatched and laudable. However, almost 92 per cent of people living with HIV (PLHIV) and persons at risk of contracting HIV globally are consuming 'made-in-India' anti-retrovirals (ARVs)," claimed Dr Gilada.

Recent success story of twice yearly shots of Lenacapavir preventing HIV in over 96 per cent of at risk people and the Gilead granting royalty-free voluntary licenses to six generic pharma globally including four Indian, hit headlines.

"How India benefits from it remains in dolldrums, as PrEP is not part of its National AIDS Control Programme (NACP). Although the HIV infections in India were declining with the wide-scale implementation of ART through 750 government-run ART centres, HIV cases started rising since 2020, with high burden in young people," Gilada emphasised.

## Gut hormone in fruit flies found to extend lifespan, result important to humans: Researchers

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 18

The gut could be key to understanding longevity, according to a study that found a gut hormone in fruit flies could control lifespan, a result important to humans as both species have many similar genes and hormones.

Researchers at Brown University in the US have found that suppressing the insulin-regulating 'neuropeptide F' hormone in the gut of fruit flies extended longevity.

The findings are important for humans too, especially as new diabetes and obesity drugs developed from gut hormones in the same insect family are becoming widespread, the researchers said.

Understanding ageing mechanisms in flies may thus help explain what's happening in humans as well, they said.

The findings are published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Reducing insulin and targeting related processes



have been found to slow ageing and extend lifespan in animals in previous studies.

In this study, the researchers manipulated gene activity in the intestines of fruit flies such that they produced lower levels of the neuropeptide F hormone, and thereby lower levels of insulin.

The team then compared the hormone production in the gut to what was happening in the fruit flies' brains and connected all the results with the diet that the insects were consuming. The researchers found that suppressing the gut activity of the neuropeptide F hormone extended longevity in the

flies, as did blocking the activity of related proteins in their brains. These proteins control the production of 'juvenile' hormones, which are known to regulate physiology.

The researchers said that neuropeptide F hormone in the gut impacted ageing in flies by integrating these factors - nutrient

sensing, insulin processes and juvenile hormone production.

"Gut neuropeptide F modulates (fruit fly) ageing through the integration of nutrient sensing, insulin signalling, and juvenile hormone," the authors wrote.

"Based on (our) research, we suspect that over-production of gut neuropeptide F in flies will have a negative effect on ageing and decrease lifespan," study author Marc Tatar, a professor of biology at Brown University.

The researchers explained that humans do not produce either of the neuropeptide F or juvenile hormones. Instead, gut hormones are involved in regulating insulin in humans.

Given how diabetes and obesity drugs, which are known to target hormones involved in controlling insulin, and the findings on the relationship between insulin and ageing in flies, it may be time to consider how the drugs could impact human ageing, the authors said.

## SOCIAL ISOLATION DEPRIVES OLDER PEOPLE OF KEY NUTRIENTS IN DIET: STUDY

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 18

Older 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 informa-

tion about what is healthy and encourage a more varied diet.

Gut hormone in fruit flies found to extend lifespan, result important to humans: Researchers'

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 out-

side 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.

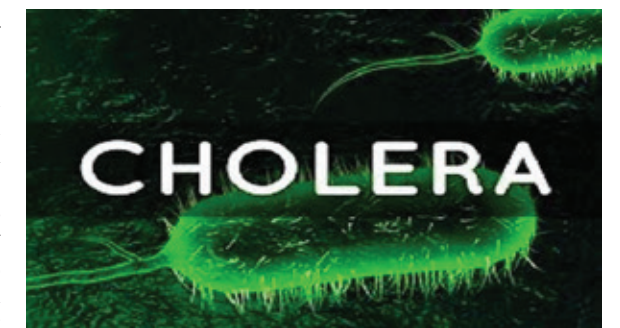
Social isolation was not linked to a higher likelihood of inadequate calcium, iron and vitamin B12, micronutrients largely derived from meat, eggs and dairy. This suggested that people who were less socially connected in the study may be more likely to have a more traditional diet with fewer vegetables (such as dark leafy greens), fruit, nuts, seeds and legumes.

AGENCIES  
ABUJA, OCT 18

The death toll from an outbreak of cholera in Nigeria has risen from 359 earlier this month to 378, with suspected cases since the onset in January exceeding 14,000 across the most populous African country, a senior public health official said.

At least 14,237 suspected cases had been reported in 35 out of 36 states as of October 13, with a case fatality rate of 2.7 per cent, Jide Idris, head of the Nigeria Center for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), told reporters at a news conference in Abuja, the capital. Xinhua news agency reported.

"Cholera has remained



a significant public health challenge, especially in states affected by flooding and poor water and sanitation infrastructure," Idris said, adding the five northern states of Borno, Adamawa, Jigawa, Yobe, and Kano had been identified as the epicentres of the outbreak.

He said that the NCDC deployed rapid response

teams to affected areas and conducted reactive cholera vaccinations in internally displaced persons camps to combat the outbreak.

Cholera, a highly virulent disease characterised in its most severe form by a sudden onset of acute watery diarrhoea, can lead to death by dehydration.

## WHO SAYS URGED ISRAEL TO ENSURE ACCESS TO ALL CHILDREN IN GAZA TO VACCINATE THEM

AGENCIES  
DOHA, OCT 18

Israel is not allowing World Health Organization (WHO) staff to enter the northern Gaza Strip to vaccinate children against polio, Regional Emergency Director for WHO's Region-

al Office for the Eastern Mediterranean Rick Brennan said. Brennan said at a press conference in Qatar that WHO has successfully vaccinated children under 10 against polio in the central and southern Gaza Strip, and now the organization needs to organize a

new round of vaccination. However, WHO has not yet received permission for staff to enter northern Gaza, Brennan said on Thursday.

On Tuesday, Israeli media reported that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Sec-

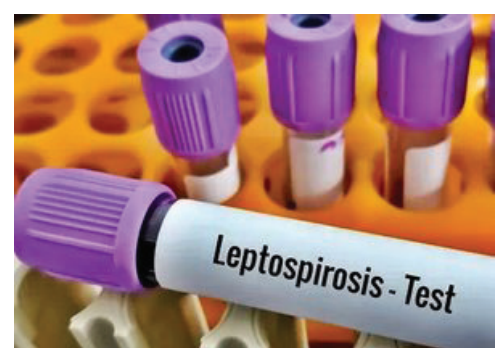
retary Lloyd Austin sent a letter to Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer threatening to impose an arms embargo on Israel if the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip is not resolved within a month.

## Leptospirosis cases continue to rise in the Philippines

AGENCIES  
MANILA, OCT 18

The Philippines continues to log more leptospirosis cases and deaths, data from the country's Department of Health (DOH) showed on Friday.

From January to October 5, the DOH recorded 5,835 cases, 16 per cent more than in the same period last year. Meanwhile, 509 deaths have been reported across the country.



"As we expect more rain to come, we must always be mindful of what to do especially if there is flooding. Avoid floodwaters as much as possible," Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa said.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection commonly spread through water contaminated with animal urine.



# Supreme Court commences live streaming of all court proceedings

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 18

In a measure to enhance transparency and accessibility of judicial hearings to the common citizen of the country, the Supreme Court has commenced live streaming of all court proceedings on its official website.

The weblink <https://appstreaming.sci.gov.in> features the option to watch the proceedings live.

Till now, the apex court live-streamed proceedings of the Constitution Bench and other hearings of national importance on YouTube.

Further, it utilised artificial intelligence and natural language processing technology for live transcription of significant hearings.

Recently, the SC hearings in the NEET-UG



matter and R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital suo moto case garnered huge public views.

The Supreme Court, in its judgment in the Swapnil Tripathi (2018) case, had favoured live streaming of the proceedings in important cases. Thereafter, the full court decided to live-stream the proceedings of the Constitution benches to provide citizens from every nook and corner of the country

to witness the top court's proceedings.

In August last year, during the Constitution Bench hearing in "Re: Article 370 of the Constitution", Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud had said the top court was setting up its own cloud software for video conferencing to enable virtual hearings in all lower courts across the country.

"In Phase III of eCourts (Project), we have a huge

budget, so we are in the process of setting up our own cloud software for video conferencing," he said.

The Chief Justice had pointed out that during the pandemic, courts across India held as many as 43 million hearings through virtual mode.

In another initiative shedding the colonial imprint and traditional attributes, under the leadership of CJI Chandra-

chud, who is set to demit office on November 10, the statue of Lady Justice, in the judges' library of the Supreme Court, now holds a copy of the Indian Constitution, instead of a sword, and the blindfold has come off to leave her with open eyes.

Traditionally, the blindfold suggested equality before the law, meaning that the dispensation of justice should not be influenced by the status, wealth, or power of the parties. The sword historically symbolised authority and the capacity to punish injustice.

However, the scales of justice in the right hand of Lady Justice have been retained, symbolising a societal balance and the significance of careful consideration of facts and arguments from both sides before arriving at a verdict.

# PM Modi to visit Russia for first Summit of expanded BRICS

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 18



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Russia on October 22-23 to attend the 16th BRICS Summit and will also hold bilateral meetings with leaders of the group's members and other invitees, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Friday.

This marks PM Modi's second visit to Russia this year. The summit is the first since the expansion of the group to nine members, with Egypt, Iran, Ethiopia, and the UAE joining this year after being offered membership in the 2023 summit in South Africa. Argentina and Saudi Arabia were also invited but the former declined after a change of government, while the latter is yet to respond.

PM Modi will visit Russia from October 22-23 at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin,

to attend the 16th BRICS Summit, being held in Kazan, under the chairmanship of Russia, the MEA said.

The summit, themed "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security", will provide an important platform for leaders to discuss key global issues, it said, adding that the Summit will offer a valuable opportunity to assess the progress of initiatives launched by BRICS and to identify potential areas for future collaboration.

During his visit, the Prime Minister is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with his counter-

parts from BRICS member countries and invited leaders in Kazan, the MEA said.

As per Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov, the BRICS summit in Kazan will host leaders from 24 countries and delegations from a total of 32 nations, making it the largest foreign policy event ever held in Russia.

Apart from the main BRICS meeting, there will be meetings in the BRICS+ format on the theme "BRICS and the Global South: Building the Future of the World Together" involving representatives from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.

# Ananth Tech successfully completes Satellite Integration Project for ISRO

AGENCIES  
HYDERABAD, OCT 18

Ananth Technologies Private Limited (ATL), a leading Aerospace and Defence company announced on Friday that it has successfully completed the integration of two 400 kg class satellites for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

This marks a significant milestone as the first time ISRO has awarded such a project to a private industry partner, the Hyderabad-based company said in a release.

The Assembly, Integration, and Testing (AIT) of the satellites were conducted at ATL's new state-of-the-art facility in the KIADB Aerospace Park, Bengaluru.

This facility is equipped

to manufacture electronic subsystems and integrate up to four large satellites simultaneously.

A ceremony celebrating the successful completion and delivery of the satellites was held at ATL today.

ISRO's U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) Director Shankaran, praised ATL's work on this project, highlighting the company's expertise and dedication.

ATL Chairman Dr. Subba Rao Pavuluri, said "This achievement is a testament to ATL's vision and commitment towards India's space sector".

"We have been manufacturing electronic subsystems for ISRO since 2000 and have been an integral part of every Indian space program over the last two decades", he said adding

that this project involved over 100 highly trained engineers and technicians, making it the most sophisticated satellite integration project undertaken by a private sector company in India to date.

At the recent Bengaluru Space Expo (BSX), ATL signed an MOU with Space Machines Company, an Australian firm, to provide AIT services for their satellites.

The company designs and manufactures solar panels for small satellites, which have been exported to international customers.

ATL is also performing integration services for ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), having completed work on 10PSLVs so far.

# No seat-sharing pangs in INDIA bloc for UP bypolls: Sandeep Dikshit

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 18

Former MP and Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit on Friday expressed confidence that the INDIA bloc will put up a good performance in the upcoming by-elections in Uttar Pradesh with both the state Congress and Samajwadi Party taking a collective decision on seat-sharing.

By-elections are scheduled to be held in nine Assembly seats in UP on November 13 and the results will be declared on November 23.

Asked about the SP's reported offer to give just two seats to the Congress, Dikshit told IANS that the decision on seat-sharing would be taken by the Congress High Command, the UP Congress Committee and the SP.



"The coalition partners will have to discuss and arrive at a decision on the basis of each other's strengths in different constituencies where the by-elections are being held," he said.

"I am sure good decisions would be taken and the INDIA bloc would win," he said.

Talking about the deteriorating air quality in Delhi, he said it was not

surprising that the situation has been bad for the past seven to eight years.

"Just because of a non-performing and corrupt AAP government in the city, people are forced to breathe the toxic air which, doctors claim, reduces their life span by 6 to 7 years," he said.

Dikshit said the AAP government's excuse of blaming stubble-burning in neighbouring states for

Delhi's pollution has been exposed as the air has become toxic these days even before farmers resort to crop burning.

"Weren't farmers burning stubble when the Congress was in power in Delhi?," he asked, blaming the AAP for inaction over fighting air pollution.

The difference between the Congress rule and the AAP government is that the previous government took responsibility and worked closely with other stakeholders to find a solution to air pollution but the AAP government only looks to run away from responsibility, said Dikshit, son of former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit who headed the city government for 15 years.

Dikshit also hit out at the "failed attempt" by the

AAP government to set up smog towers as an attempt to distract public attention and to make money through corruption.

The former East Delhi MP also slammed the AAP government for the poor state of roads in Delhi alleging massive corruption in the Public Works Department.

He said potholes in roads were also adding to air pollution as these throw up dust particles and slow down traffic, increasing vehicular emissions.

Alleging massive corruption in the AAP-ruled civic agency, Dikshit said illegal construction across the city was also adding to air pollution and suspension of dust particles in the air as construction waste was not being disposed of properly.

# PM Modi to launch 'Karmayogi Saptah' tomorrow; Ministries to organise workshops, seminars

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 18

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch 'Karmayogi Saptah' National Learning Week (NLW), a one-of-its-kind initiative imparting four hours of competency-linked learning for all Central government employees including Civil Servants.

The 'Karmayogi Saptah' programme, organised in collaboration with the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), CBC and Karmayogi Bharat will be held at Dr Ambedkar International Centre in the capital on Saturday.

The objective of NLW is to catalyse competence building of Civil Servants. Under the programme,



each government employee will be mandated to undertake four hours of

competency-linked learning during the week. Various ministries

and departments will be organising workshops and seminars to enhance domain-specific competencies.

The National Learning Week (NLW) is one of the largest events of its kind to provide fresh impetus towards individual and organisational capacity development for Civil Servants.

This initiative will stimulate a renewed commitment to learning and development.

NLW aims to create a "one government" message, align everyone with national goals and promote lifelong learning.

Mission Karmayogi was launched in September 2020 and since then, it has made substantial progress.

It envisions future-ready Civil Servants rooted in Indian ethos with a global perspective.

NLW will be dedicated to learning through various forms of engagement by individual participants and Ministries, Departments, and Organisations.

The participants may complete the targeted four hours through a mix of individual role-based modules on iGOT and webinars (public lectures/policy masterclasses) by noted personalities.

During the week, eminent speakers will deliver talks on their areas of prominence and help them work towards citizen-centric delivery in a much more effective manner.

# India's cargo volumes see over 5 pc growth in September

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 18

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on 'Transformation through Transportation' is turning waterways into the new highways of India and in the month of September, cargo volume handled by 12 major ports surged to 413.747 million metric tonnes (MMT), a 5.03 per cent growth (year-on-year).

According to the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the transportation of cargo on National Waterways reached 56.57 MMT for the April-August 2024, registering 4.54 per cent growth over the same period last year.

The volume of cargo transported through India's



inland waterways took more than six-fold leap from 18.07 million metric tonnes (MMT) in 2013-14 to 133.03 MMT in 2023-24.

According to the government, as many as 106 new National Waterways were declared in 2016, with the number of operational waterways increasing from just 3 in 2013-14 to 26 by 2024.

Moreover, 14 new National Waterways (NWS) have been approved for development. These waterways, located in Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra,

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam, are being developed at an estimated cost of Rs 400 crore.

With the ambitious targets set under the 'Maritime India Vision 2030' and 'Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047', the Central government aims to further boost cargo traffic, targeting 200 MMT by 2030 and an impressive 500 MMT by 2047.

A report by Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics this week stated that the Indian inland waterways transport (IWT) sector presents significant opportunities for growth through public-private partnerships (PPPs), and the government is eyeing expansion of the PPP model to drive development.

# ECI issues notification for first phase of Assembly polls in Jharkhand

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI/RANCHI, OCT 18

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday issued notification for the first phase of Assembly elections in Jharkhand, marking the beginning of the nomination process.

In the first phase, elections will be held in 43 Assembly constituencies.

Candidates can now submit their nomination papers both offline and online. Nomination papers

will be accepted at the Returning Officer's (RO) office between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

A maximum of four persons, including the candidate, can enter the RO chamber.

If the candidate belongs to a registered party, only one voter is required to propose their candidacy. However, independent candidates and those from non-recognised political parties will need ten proposers.

The candidate's name must be listed in any voter roll within the state. They can also submit their nomination forms online through the Election Commission's Suvidha App.

While submitting the nomination form, the candidate must provide three recent passport-size photos, a copy of their educational qualification certificates, a copy of the new bank account opened for election purposes, and an affidavit (Form



26) which must detail the candidate's movable and

immovable assets, loans, liabilities, and any criminal

record. To keep a tab on expenses, a register will be maintained by both the candidate and the election office.

Candidates are permitted to spend up to Rs 40 lakh in this election. For the nomination, general category candidates must pay a fee of Rs 10,000, while candidates from Scheduled Castes/Tribes need to pay Rs 5,000.

The seats going to polls in the first phase are

Kodarma, Barkatha, Barhi, Barkagaon, Hazaribagh, Simaria, Chatra, Baharagora, Ghatshila, Potka, Jugsalai, Jamshedpur East, Jamshedpur West, Ichaigarh, Seraikela, Chaibasa, Majhgaon, Jagannathpur, Manoharpur, Chakradharpur, Kharsawan.

Polling will also be held in Tamar, Torpa, Khunti, Ranchi, Hatia, Kanke, Mandar, Sisai, Gumla, Bishunpur, Simdega, Kolebira, Lohardaga, Manika, Latehar, Panki,

Daltonganj, Vishrampur, Chhatarpur, Hussainabad, Garhwa, and Bhawanathpur in the first phase.

The last date for submitting nomination papers is October 25, while scrutiny was scheduled for October 28. The final date for withdrawing nominations is October 30.

The state is going to polls in two phases on November 13 and 20 and the counting of votes will be taken up on November 23.



## 28 killed, 160 injured in Israeli airstrike: Hamas

AGENCIES  
GAZA/JERUSALEM, OCT 17

At least 28 Palestinians were killed and 160 others injured in an Israeli airstrike on a school housing displaced people in the Jabalia camp of northern Gaza Strip on Thursday, the Hamas-run Gaza government media office said.

Fires broke out in the tents of the displaced individuals in the schoolyard because of the bombing. Some casualties were transferred to a hospital in northern Gaza, while ambulance teams were unable to reach the people in the targeted school, according to the Palestinian official news agency Wafa.

Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement that the



Israeli Air Force conducted a "precise strike" on an operational meeting point for Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants in northern Gaza.

The militants were operating inside a command and control center embedded inside a compound that previously

served as the Abu Hassan School, the IDF said.

Dozens of militants were present in the compound at the time of the strike, said the IDF, which also published 12 names of those present.

The militants were involved in rocket attacks into the Israeli territory,

as well as in planning and committing attacks against IDF troops and Israel in recent days, it claimed.

Mahmoud Basal, spokesman for the Civil Defense in Gaza, said Thursday in a statement that the Israeli army is carrying out a "systematic destruction" of the Jabalia camp, using all means, including explosive robots, to empty the camp.

Medics told Xinhua news agency that eight people were killed and dozens of others injured in an Israeli bombing on a house belonging to the al-Helou family west of Gaza City, while the Civil Defence Authority in Gaza said Thursday in a press statement that its team recovered the bodies of six Palestinians killed in a bombing in the town of

al-Fakhari, east of Khan Younis, in southern Gaza.

Local sources and eye-witnesses said that Israeli aircraft and artillery intensively bombed the outskirts of the Zeitoun neighbourhood in southern Gaza and the Sabra neighborhood in the west, amidst gunfire from Israeli tanks.

According to the IDF, its troops have killed militants and destroyed infrastructure in the area of Rafah in southern Gaza over the past day, dismantled a "terrorist cell" and located a large number of weapons in northern Gaza, and dismantled military infrastructure and killed militants in central Gaza, including in the outskirts of Nuseirat and Al Bureij refugee camps. The IDF did not specify the number of the casualties.

## Biden calls Sinwar's death a 'good day', 'opportunity' for talks

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON, OCT 18

US President Joe Biden called the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar a "good day" for Israel, comparing the relief felt in that country to that felt in the US after the killing of Osama bin Laden in 2011. He also said Sinwar's death presented an "opportunity" for a political settlement between Israel and Palestine. "This is a good day for Israel, for the United States, and for the world," Biden said. "To my Israeli friends, this is no doubt a day of relief and reminiscence, similar to the scenes witnessed throughout the United States after President Obama ordered the raid to kill Osama Bin Laden in 2011."

Appealing for an end to



hostilities, Biden added: "There is now the opportunity for a 'day after' in Gaza without Hamas in power, and for a political settlement that provides a better future for Israelis and Palestinians alike. Yahya Sinwar was an insurmountable obstacle to achieving all of those goals. That obstacle no longer exists. But much work remains before us."

The Hamas leader is said to have masterminded the October 7 terrorist attack on Israel in which more than 1,200 people were killed on that day, includ-

ing 46 Americans. Over 250 were taken hostage, with 101 still missing.

He was killed by the Israeli army in Gaza.

"As the leader of the terrorist group Hamas, Sinwar was responsible for the deaths of thousands of Israelis, Palestinians, Americans, and citizens from over 30 countries," Biden said.

Biden went on to detail the defence and security assistance his government provided to the Israelis in the aftermath of the October 7 massacres. "I directed Special Operations personnel and our intelligence professionals to work side-by-side with their Israeli counterparts to help locate and track Sinwar and other Hamas leaders hiding in Gaza.

## Bangladesh tribunal issues arrest warrant against Hasina

AGENCIES  
DHAKA, OCT 18

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal on Thursday issued arrest warrants against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who was ousted after student-led protests in August, and 45 others for alleged crimes against humanity.

The warrants against Hasina, 77, and others, including her party Awami League's top leaders, were issued on the first day of the judicial proceedings begun by the re-constituted tribunal, Dhaka Tribune newspaper said. The Tribunal, led by its chairman Justice Md Golam Mortuza Majumdar, passed the orders after the prosecution filed two petitions seeking arrest warrants, Chief Prosecutor Muhammad Tajul Islam was quoted as saying by the

Daily Star.

The ICT also directed the authorities concerned to produce Hasina and 45 others before it by November 18. So far more than 60 complaints of enforced disappearance, murder and mass killings have been filed at the ICT against Hasina, other leaders of her Awami League party and the 14-party alliance, journalists and former top officials of law enforcement agencies.

Following unprecedented anti-government protests over a controversial quota system in government jobs that peaked on August 5, Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled to India and is currently believed to be living at an undisclosed location there. Hundreds of people were killed in Bangladesh in the incidents of violence that

erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government, taking the death toll to more than 1,000 since the massive protest by students against a controversial quota system in government jobs first started in mid-July.

After taking over on August 8, Bangladesh's interim government had said it would try in the International Crimes Tribunal those involved in the killings during the mass movement of the students against the Hasina-led government.

Hasina faces almost 200 cases mostly for murders during the mass student protests.

Advocate Tajul Islam, the chief prosecutor of the tribunal, said on Sunday that Interpol's assistance would be sought to bring back fugitives, including Hasina.

## SAUDI ARABIA'S NEW INITIATIVE FOR STRONGER BONDS WITH INDIAN, EXPATS

AGENCIES  
RIYADH, OCT 18

Saudi Arabia has launched a new initiative that aims at promoting quality of life and developing stronger bonds between the local society and the Indian and other expatriate communities through cultural promotion.

Unveiling the Global Harmony initiative here on Wednesday night, Saudi deputy minister for media Khalid bin Abdulqader Al-Ghamdi, said, "This initiative will also showcase the different cultures of the expats and how they are living in harmony." The Global Harmony initiative is a part of Saudi Arabia's Quality of Life programme to attain its 'Vision 2030' objectives.

Ambassador of India Suhel Ajaz Khan and top

diplomats of many other countries were present on the occasion.

After the launch, Al-Ghamdi said Indians living in Saudi Arabia are contributing in a large way to the greater Saudi society.

Khan said Indians are the largest expat community in Saudi Arabia with an approximate 2.6 million people.

"The Indian community is increasing. Last one year itself, the community has increased by about 2,00,000 people," he added. Khan attributed the increase in the numbers to multiple reasons.

"There are big economic opportunities because of Vision 2030. But the most important factor is that there is immense goodwill for Indians in this country and that is something which makes people

rely more on the Indian workers.

"Over the years, the profile of Indian workers has also changed. More and more skilled Indian workers are here now," he added.

Khan also said bilateral relations are on an upswing as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited the Kingdom twice and the Saudi crown prince was also in India for the G20 Summit.

There have also been landforce and naval exercises between the two countries, he said.

The Global Harmony initiative is showcasing the diverse lives of residents in the kingdom, from across countries and cultures from October 13-21 at the ongoing Riyadh Season at Al-Suwaidi Park here.

Besides India, the other

participating countries are the Philippines, Indonesia, Pakistan, Yemen, Sudan, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Bangladesh and Egypt.

The Al-Suwaidi Park venue has live performances by different dance troupes, music groups and singers from India.

Among the participants from India are musician Himesh Reshammiya, rapper Emiway Bantai and cricketers Umran Malik and Sreesanth, the organisers said.

A separate bazaar area has also been set up with Indian cuisines, clothing items and handicrafts.

The Global Harmony initiative aims to showcase the diverse lives of residents in the kingdom, highlight their professional and family life, social and recreational activities, contributions to the

economy, success stories, and cultural integration in the Saudi society.

It also highlights the government and the private sector efforts to improve the quality of life in Saudi cities.

Launched in 2016, 'Vision 2030' is a blueprint for diversifying the economy, empowering citizens, creating a vibrant environment for both local and international investors, and establishing Saudi Arabia as a global leader. There are three stages, each lasting five years and building on the last.

The Global Harmony event, being held in partnership with the General Entertainment Authority, is part of the 45-day Riyadh Season, considered one of the world's largest winter entertainment events that started on Sunday.

## Zelensky heads to EU, NATO seeking support for his 'victory plan'

AGENCIES  
VRUSSELS, OCT 18

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Thursday that support from his embattled nation's Western allies is key to his "victory plan" to end the country's devastating war with Russia as he laid out details of the plan to European Union leaders.

He told reporters the plan aims "to strengthen Ukraine" and pave the way for a diplomatic solution to end the conflict on Europe's eastern flank.

"I think that this plan doesn't depend on Russian will, only on the will of our partners," he said before addressing leaders at an EU summit.

Zelensky was later shuttling across Brussels to meet with NATO defence ministers. The EU is a key

supporter of Ukraine, a candidate member of the 27-nation bloc, as it fights Russia's invasion that began more than 2 1/2 years ago.

Zelensky outlined the five-point plan to Ukraine's parliament on Wednesday without disclosing confidential elements that have been presented in private to key allies, including the United States.

The Institute for the Study of War in Washington said that Russian President Vladimir Putin is seeking to draw out the war and he believes "that Russian forces can outlast Western support for Ukraine and collapse Ukrainian resistance by winning a war of attrition".

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte was muted in his response to the plan on Wednesday.

On Thursday he said that Kyiv can rest "absolutely assured that 32 allies are united in making sure that collectively, we will do whatever is needed to make sure that Ukraine can prevail, that (Russian President Vladimir) Putin will not get his way".

Rutte reiterated that Ukraine's place is among NATO's ranks, but he would not say when it might join. Zelensky insists that a membership invitation is central to his "victory plan" and would provide his country with the ultimate security guarantee to protect it from Russia.

"Ukraine will be a member of NATO in the future," Rutte said. "The question is exactly about the when. I cannot answer that now."

However, Rutte said,

Putin must understand that "we are in this, if necessary, for the long haul. And obviously we want to be in a place where Zelensky and Ukraine, from a position of strength, is able to start talks with Russia".

Major points of the plan include an invitation for Ukraine to join NATO and permission to use Western-supplied longer-range missiles to strike military targets deep inside Russia, steps that have been met with reluctance by Kyiv's allies so far.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz downplayed the chances of Berlin changing its opposition to the use of long-range weapons against Russian targets. "You know Germany's position on the questions that are touched on here; nothing will change about this," he said.

## From Arabic studies graduate to chief architect of Oct 7 Hamas attack: All about Yahya Sinwar

AGENCIES  
GAZA, OCT 18

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and the Israel Security Agency have jointly confirmed that Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar was killed in the Gaza Strip by Israeli soldiers on Wednesday. No official confirmation has been made by Hamas.

Sinwar was born in October 1962 in the Khan Younis refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip. He studied in Khan Younis schools before being enrolled in the Islamic University of Gaza, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Arabic studies. In 2011, he married a woman from the Gaza Strip, and they have three children, Xinhua news agency reported.

He was first arrested in 1982 at the age of 20 due



to his involvement in subversive activities and subsequently placed under administrative detention for four months. Following his release, he was re-arrested just one week later and spent six months in prison without trial. In 1985, he faced another arrest and was sentenced to eight months in prison.

In 1988, he was arrested again and tried on charges related to leading the kidnapping and murder of two Israeli soldiers, as well as the killing of four Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel. He was sentenced to four life sentences.

During his imprisonment, Sinwar led the Supreme Leadership Committee of Hamas prisoners in Israeli jails, helping to manage confrontations with prison authorities during a series of hunger strikes. He was transferred between several prisons. He attempted to escape from prison twice, but both attempts were unsuccessful.

Sinwar used his time in prison for reading and writing, learning Hebrew and writing several books and translations in political, security, and literary fields.

He was released in 2011 as part of a prisoner exchange for an Israeli soldier.

After his release, Sinwar was elected to Hamas's political bureau during the movement's internal elections in 2012, where he took charge of secu-

rity matters. In 2013, he assumed leadership of Hamas's military wing, the al-Qassam Brigades, coordinating efforts between the political bureau and the brigades' leadership.

He was elected in 2017 as the head of the movement's political bureau in Gaza, and in 2021, he was re-elected for a second four-year term during the movement's internal elections.

Sinwar's house has been bombed multiple times, and he is described as a cautious figure who rarely speaks publicly.

Sinwar was considered the chief architect of the Hamas attack against Israel on October 7, 2023.

In August, Hamas announced that Sinwar was appointed as its leader following the assassination of former leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

## Death toll from Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon rises to 2,412: Report

AGENCIES  
BEIRUT, OCT 18

The death toll from Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon since the beginning of the Israel-Hezbollah conflict on October 8, 2023, has reached 2,412, and the number of wounded individuals has increased to 11,285, according to a report by the Lebanese Council of Ministers.

Meanwhile, the death



toll from Israeli airstrikes on different areas in Lebanon on October 16 reached 45 while injuries stood at 179, the report said on Thursday.

The report said that during the past 24 hours,

96 airstrikes and shelling were recorded in various areas of Lebanon, bringing the total number of attacks since the beginning of the Israeli "aggression" to 10,246, Xinhua news agency reported.

According to the report, about a third of the Lebanese people have become displaced, and there is a risk of spreading epidemics among the displaced.

## 'Human-induced climate change behind intense rains in Nepal'

AGENCIES  
KATHMANDU, OCT 18

The late September floods that killed more than 240 people in Nepal were driven by rainfall made about 10 per cent more intense by human-caused climate change, a rapid analysis by a team of leading scientists said on Thursday.

The analysis by World Weather Attribution (WWA) also underscored the urgent need for Nepal to limit development in

low-lying, riverside areas of Nepali cities to prevent and protect people from future floods. WWA is a collaboration of international scientists that analyses and communicates the possible influence of climate change on extreme weather events, such as storms, extreme rainfall, heat waves, and droughts.

The floods in Nepal followed three days of extreme rainfall starting September 26. As records were broken across central and eastern Nepal,

with some weather stations recording more than 320 mm on September 28, massive floods and landslides claimed at least 244 lives and caused a heavy loss to the country.

"Climate change was responsible for the extreme three day downpours in Nepal about 10 per cent more intense. Bursts of rainfall will become even more heavier, risking more destructive floods until the world replaces fossil fuels with renewable sources of

energy," the WWA analysis said.

The flooding witnessed by Kathmandu valley had never occurred before in the past, according to eye-witnesses. More than 50 people were killed and properties worth billions of rupees were damaged due to the heavy rainfall that hit the capital city recently. Highlighting how rapid development greatly worsened the impacts of the flood, the study said, Kathmandu, the largest city in Nepal and amongst

the hardest-hit districts by the floods, is built around the Bagmati river in a bowl-shaped valley and has experienced rapid growth in recent decades.

"Limiting development in flood-prone urban areas will reduce the number of people in harm's way and save lives when floods occur in the future," the researchers said and also suggested scaling up of early warning systems and prompt action to avoid repeat flooding disasters.



# India to have 1.2 billion smartphone connections by 2030, half of them 5G

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 18

India is projected to have 1.2 billion smartphone connections by 2030, with half of the users on 5G smartphones, according to a new report.

According to global mobile network body GSMA, the country is projected to have over 641 million 5G subscribers by 2030, growing at 49 per cent.

"India will see an unprecedented growth in the number of 5G mobile subscribers, and an explosion of data usage in the next six years," according to GSMA Intelligence projections.

This stupendous growth in 5G subscribers will also lead to a huge expansion



of data consumption, impelling Indian telcos to make large investments.

The data consumption per subscriber is likely to grow at a CAGR of 15 per cent between 2023 and 2029, to reach 68 GB per month per subscriber in

India.

In the Asia-Pacific region, India and Indonesia are uniquely positioned to leverage digitalisation to drive economic resilience, job creation, and innovation.

According to the latest

'GSMA Mobile Economy Asia Pacific 2024 Report', India is projected to have 1.2 billion smartphone connections by 2030, while Indonesia is expected to reach 387 million connections by the same year," said the organisation.

Furthermore, mobile technologies and services generated 5.3 per cent of GDP across the APAC region in 2023, contributing \$880 billion in economic value, and supporting approximately 13 million jobs across the region.

"India and Indonesia are not just the largest democracies in the APAC region; they are the future engines of digital and economic growth for the region. By foster-

ing partnerships and collaboration, we are laying the foundation for a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable digital future for both nations," said Mats Granryd, Director General, GSMA.

Meanwhile, the widespread availability of spectrum for 5G is likely to contribute about \$27 billion to India's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030, according to a recent GSMA report.

The organisation, which represents mobile networks worldwide, said the upper 6 GHz band must also be part of the spectrum roadmap of the country.

The launch of 5G has emerged as a significant catalyst for the growth in data usage.

# India takes lead in 6G after record 5G roll out: Experts

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, OCT 18

After a successful 5G roll-out, the country is now taking lead in 6G as the 'Digital India' initiative transforms the economy, with the Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile (JAM) trinity emerging as a solid foundation block, experts said here on Friday.

Sumnesh Joshi, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Communications said that the country has seen one of the fastest roll out of 5G services across the world and has taken the lead in 6G. Addressing an event organised by Assocham, Joshi said that today, everyone has a bank account creating a robust ecosystem for innovative services such as financial credit or micro credit, micro insurance, mutual



fund and even share-related products.

"We have to leverage the ecosystem that we have created in our country. Today, we are even able to transact just 5 rupees, 10 rupees, 15 rupees. We can now think of making a payment without the smartphone, without the QR code. Aadhaar-based payments is the next logical step and the need of the hour is to connect all the systems," he told the gathering. The ministry has

taken effective measures to block international calls showing India numbers.

"This is an important step in dealing with fraudulent calls. There is a need for collaboration between the ecosystem partners for real-time data sharing, whether it is the fintech industry, communication or government of India, home affair, police, state government. So, we can take immediate action if anything is happening," Joshi added.

# ITU-WTSA 2024 in India sees highest-ever women participation in its history

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 18

The International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) 'World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024' in India saw highest-ever women participation in its history, marking a significant step toward gender-balanced delegations and leadership roles, it was announced on Friday.

According to Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary General of the ITU, the industry must increase the number of women in leadership roles, especially in the standards study groups.

"It's crucial for women to step up, take the floor, and make their voices heard. This is what the 'Network of Women' stands for - creating an environment where women feel empowered and supported. Mentor-



ship plays a vital role in this transformation. It's through mentoring, creating opportunities, and sharing our knowledge that we can truly progress," she said during the event by The Network of Women in Standards (NoW).

The event underscored the commitment to advancing women's leadership roles in STEM and standardisation.

The Indian government is implementing various measures to create

an inclusive technology sector and empower women through technology platforms, in line with the vision of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who advocates for women-led development.

The country is making progress in this area, with an increasing number of women co-founders in startups and over 40 per cent of participants in STEM education being women.

Initiatives such as Namu Drone Didi, Bank Sakhi,

and Mahila E-Haat are empowering women to take on leadership roles in technology.

Dr Rim Belhassine-Cherif, Chair of NoW, highlighted the progress made in achieving gender balance at the event.

"One of the key objectives of ITU-WTSA 2024 was to promote gender-balanced delegations and increase the number of women in leadership roles, particularly as heads of delegations," Belhassine-Cherif mentioned.

The increasing involvement of women in ICT standardisation is crucial as disruptive technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) emerge. Women's contributions can help ensure the development of inclusive, equitable, and sustainable standards that will drive technological progress for the benefit of all humanity, said experts.

# India's content creation market to reach \$480 billion by 2035: Minister

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 18

India is poised to become the content creation capital of the world, with the market projected to grow from the current \$30 billion to \$480 billion by 2035, Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia has said.

Addressing a panel discussion during the 'India Mobile Congress 2024' in the national capital, the minister emphasised the democratisation of information access and India's readiness to embrace next-generation technologies like 6G to lead the digital revolution.

According to a recent report by EY, the Indian content industry was expected to hit \$30.6 billion this year.

The experts emphasised that AI in content creation is an opportunity to expand revenue streams, reduce costs and tap into



new markets, especially in tier 2 and 3 cities where content consumption patterns are evolving.

As AI facilitates real-time personalisation and interaction with audiences, the creative economy is set to grow exponentially, they added. The conversation centred on AI's ability to complement, not replace, human creativity.

AI is enhancing regional content, with 95 per cent of YouTube consumption in India now being in regional languages, reflecting a shift from the predominantly English-speaking digital sphere just a few years ago.

AI-driven content can help educate and raise awareness, offering unprecedented oppor-

tunities for spreading meaningful information, said industry experts. The 8th edition of the 'India Mobile Congress' was kicked off with its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bharat Mandapam in the national capital. PM Modi took a walkthrough of the exhibition area before officially inaugurating the event.

# India surpasses China to become largest two-wheeler market globally

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 18

India has surpassed China to become the largest two-wheeler market in the world, driven by rising demand in rural areas, supported by favourable monsoon conditions and government initiatives for rural development, a report showed on Friday.

Globally, two-wheeler sales grew 4 per cent (year-on-year) in the first half of 2024, according to Counterpoint Research.

Although India, Europe, North America, Latin America, and the Middle East and Africa saw growth, China and South-east Asia (SEA) experienced a decline.



Senior analyst Soumen Mandal said that India's two-wheeler market saw a remarkable 22 per cent YoY growth in the first half this year. "This strong performance allowed India to surpass China and become the world's largest two-wheeler market," he men-

tioned. Two-wheelers saw strong double-digit growth (year-on-year) in the second quarter of this fiscal in India.

In China, two-wheelers under 125cc remain popular, but consumers are increasingly opting for

e-bicycles over motorcycles and scooters for daily commuting. This shift has led to a temporary slowdown in the Chinese two-wheeler market, particularly in the electric segment. In South East Asia, major markets such as Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand, and Malaysia saw a decline in two-wheeler sales due to geopolitical trade tensions, stricter lending criteria, and cautious consumer spending amid economic uncertainty.

The top-10 global two-wheeler manufacturers captured over 75 per cent of sales during H1 2024.

Honda maintained its leading position in the global two-wheeler

market, followed by Hero MotoCorp, Yamaha, TVS Motor and Yadea.

TVS Motor was the fastest-growing brand (up 25 per cent YoY) among the top-10 brands while Yadea declined the most (down 29 per cent YoY), slipping to fifth position.

Neil Shah, Vice President of Research, said that electrification is on the rise, and by 2030, we expect four out of 10 two-wheelers sold to be electric. "This shift is also accelerating the adoption of embedded cellular connectivity in the two-wheeler segment. As the automotive industry advances toward C-V2X technology, the two-wheeler segment will follow suit," he noted.

# October 18: Stock market trades low on weak global cues, geopolitical sentiments

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, OCT 18

The Indian stock market again opened in the red on Friday amid growing geopolitical tensions between Iran and Israel and weak global cues. In early trade, selling was seen in the Information Technology (IT), auto, pharma and Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) bank sectors.

The Sensex was trading at 80,752.18 after slipping 254.43 points or 0.31 per cent. At the same time, the Nifty opened trading at 24,675.30 after falling 74.55 points or 0.3 per cent. The market trend remained negative. On

the NSE, 283 stocks were trading in the green, while 1,941 stocks were trading in the red. At the same time, 588 stocks were trading in green and 2,166 stocks were trading in red on the BSE.

Nifty Bank was at 51,055.00 after falling 233.80 points or 0.46 per cent. Nifty Midcap 100 index was trading at 57,636.95 level after falling 829 points or 1.42 per cent. At the same time, Nifty Smallcap 100 index was at 18,673.75 after falling 392.20 points or 2.06 per cent.

Wipro, Axis Bank and TCS were the top gainers in the Nifty pack. Bajaj

Auto, Titan Company, Infosys, Maruti Suzuki and Shri Ram Finance were the top losers.

In Asian markets, except Seoul, the stock markets of Bangkok, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Jakarta and Tokyo were trading in the green. The US stock market closed in the green on the last trading day.

According to market experts, the 6 per cent correction in Nifty from the peak has made India an underperformer with only a 13.83 per cent return year-to-date (YTD), in contrast to the 23.16 per cent return in the S&P 500 YTD.

# 'India's growth rate is among the shiniest parts in the world economy': Ajay Banga

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON, OCT 18

'India's growth rate is among the shiniest parts in the world economy': Ajay Banga

India's growth rate is among the shiniest parts in the world economy, World Bank president Ajay Banga said on Thursday, noting that a lot of this is driven by the domestic market.

"There is no doubt that India's growth rate is among the shiniest parts in the world economy. I think being able to grow



at six, seven per cent and more in this kind of environment shows you that they've done a number of things to get there," Banga told reporters ahead of next week's annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

"A lot of that growth is

in India, is driven by the domestic market as well, which actually is a healthy sign, in some ways. What India needs to work on as the prime minister laid out is things on quality of life, like air and the quality of water and the like," he said.

"We are actively engaged with them on a number of topics to do with these, and I think we will see more results of those coming out in the coming months in terms of projects," Banga said in response to a question.

World Bank Managing

Director for Operations Anna Bjerde said the bank is supporting the government turning the growth into jobs and also sustainable development.

She underscored the need to increase female workforce participation as India has a huge potential to increase the level of participation by women.

The World Bank is also working with India on the urban development side as there's so much potential to make cities much more livable whether it comes to air quality, water supply or urban planning.

# Collective responsibility to improve corporate governance, follow global standards: NFRA Chief

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 18

National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) Chairperson Ajay Bhushan Prasad Pandey on Thursday underscored the need for improving corporate governance and aligning Indian auditing with global standards to attract investors.

Observing that there is a need to continue to take cognizance of corporate governance reforms, he

said company management, independent directors and audit committee, statutory auditors, shareholders, and regulators constitute five lines of defence to improve corporate governance.

"It is our collective responsibility...We should continue to create trust. Improve the corporate governance, and we should work in that direction," he said, addressing an event organised by industry chamber Asso-

cham here.

Adopting global auditing standards would improve the trust of global investors in the Indian economy, which is on its way to becoming the third largest from the present fifth position, he said.

Making a pitch to align Indian audit practices with the global standards, Pandey said it is in the interest of corporates.

Adopting global audit norms is easier as "we have global precedents",

he said.

"We cannot have Indian accounting standards in isolation while not adhering to global standards... Some big corporate failures have been due to related party transactions and subsidiaries siphoning off funds...We must take corrective action like new Standard of Quality Management, changes in the auditing standard SA 600 to reduce the probability of frauds via subsidiaries," he said.



# ALCARAZ DEFEATS NADAL IN SIX KINGS SLAM

AGENCIES  
RIVADH, OCT 18

In the semifinals of the Saudi "Six Kings Slam" exhibition tennis tournament on Thursday night, Carlos Alcaraz defeated his Spanish compatriot Rafael Nadal in straight sets, while Jannik Sinner triumphed in a three-set battle against Novak Djokovic.

This match marked Nadal's first competitive appearance since announcing his upcoming retirement, drawing significant attention, especially given the clash with rising Spanish star Alcaraz.

Alcaraz showed exceptional form, breaking Nadal's serve early. With another break at the end of the set, Alcaraz took the first set 6-3. Despite overwhelming support from the crowd for the veteran Nadal, Alcaraz maintained his momentum, winning the second set 6-3 and



securing the victory in this all-Spanish "derby."

After the match, Nadal praised Alcaraz's performance, saying, "He's been playing fantastic the last few years, getting better and better. I think I tried. I haven't been on the competitive stage for months. I think it was a good performance, but it wasn't enough to play against 'an animal' like him."

Reflecting on his retirement, Nadal expressed gratitude to his fans, stating, "I really feel very fortunate. I had a very long

and successful career and the support and the love all around the world."

In the other semifinal, Italy's Sinner faced Serbia's Djokovic just four days after their encounter in the Shanghai Masters final.

Started strong, taking the first set 6-2. The second set was fiercely contested, with Djokovic securing an early break, only for Sinner to break back in the fourth game. The set progressed to a tiebreak, where Djokovic dominated, winning 7-6(0)

without dropping a point. The battle continued into the third set, with both players exchanging breaks early. They held serve until 4-4 when Sinner achieved a crucial break in the ninth game and closed out the match 6-4 in the final set.

The final between Alcaraz and Sinner will take place on Saturday, marking their second encounter following the China Open final earlier this month.

On the same day, Nadal and Djokovic will compete for third place, offering another star-studded showdown.

The "Six Kings Slam" exhibition tennis tournament, held on October 16, 17, and 19, is a highlight of Saudi Arabia's "Riyadh Season" this year. Six renowned tennis players are competing in the tournament, with the winner set to take home a grand prize of 6 million U.S. dollars.

# 'It would be awesome': Scott Boland eyes Australia Test return in BGT

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 18

After an injury-hampered start to the summer, Scott Boland is ready to return to the Sheffield Shield and stake his claim for a spot in Australia's Test side, with hopes of donning the Baggy Green once again in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy series against India.

Boland will make his Shield return this weekend at the MCG, where his Victoria side will take on New South Wales in a star-studded clash.

The 35-year-old has been sidelined by dual injuries, a plantar fascia tear in his right foot and a left knee niggle. But now the paceman is determined to prove he deserves a chance to take on India, a team against which he has already demonstrated his big-game credentials.

"First game back, there's probably going to be a little bit of rust, but



that's OK. I know that once I get into my work, it'll be maybe one spell of rust, then hopefully I'm into my work and bowling really well again. I'm pretty confident. I've done so much work on my body the last four or five months. I should be able to withstand anything that a Shield game presents," Boland told cricket.com.au.

Boland's return will be closely watched, especially as he eyes a potential call-up for the highly anticipated Boxing Day Test at the MCG, the fourth of India's five-match Test

series in Australia. He famously claimed 6-7 at the same venue against England in the 2022 Ashes, and he hopes to repeat those heroics in front of a packed crowd against India.

"It would be awesome. We played against them in India, we played against them in London last year for the Test Championship (final). I think it'd be pretty cool to play them here at the 'G. Indian fans travel everywhere and they support their team wherever they go. It'll be a really big crowd here, and it would be really nice to be a part

of that game," he said.

Boland's most recent international appearance came during Australia's tour of the UK last year, where he played a key role in helping the team win the World Test Championship final against India.

As he prepares for his Shield return, Boland knows he has plenty of time to build momentum ahead of the Test summer. "Looking at the bigger picture, I've still got plenty of time to get into the season. I thought, 'if I miss a game or two here, how do I set myself up for the rest of the season and the next couple of years?' I took the slower approach, I guess," said the pacer.

He is hoping that his performances will push him back into contention for the Test series. "I don't want to miss too many games - I've already missed three games (for Victoria), but there's still heaps of cricket coming up before the Test summer," he concluded.

# India Women secure 5-2 win over Pak at SAFF

AGENCIES  
KATHMANDU, OCT 18

In a thrilling start to their SAFF Women's Championship 2024 campaign, the Indian women's football team secured a resounding 5-2 victory over Pakistan at the Dasharath Stadium on Thursday.

The match showcased not only India's attacking prowess but also marked significant milestones in women's football for the nation.

Grace Dangmei led the charge for India, scoring twice in the fifth and 42nd minutes. Manisha Kalyan added another goal in the 17th minute, followed by Bala Devi, who netted a stunning free-kick in the 35th minute to bring her tally to 50 international goals, making her the first Indian woman to achieve this milestone.

Jyoti Chauhan capped off the scoring in the 78th minute with a well-placed header from a corner,

further solidifying India's dominance.

Despite the scoreline, Pakistan showed resilience, with Suha Hirani converting a penalty just before half-time (45+2') and Kayla Marie Siddique scoring in the 47th minute, reducing the deficit to 4-2. However, India's early goals set the tone for the match, allowing them to maintain control throughout.

The victory marked India's fourth consecutive win over their traditional rivals, who are currently ranked 158th in the world. India's commanding performance also celebrated two remarkable achievements: Captain Ashalata Devi made history by becoming the first Indian woman to earn 100 international caps.

World No. 68 India, who have claimed the SAFF Women's Championship title five times, wasted no time in asserting their dominance. The

opening goal came from an impressive cross by wing-back Ranjana Chanu, which was expertly converted by Dangmei from outside the box. This was quickly followed by a well-timed through ball from Bala Devi to Manisha, who slotted it past Pakistan's goalkeeper, Nisha Ashraf.

India maintained a 4-1 lead at half-time after Hirani's penalty, but Pakistan's early second-half goal sparked a momentary hope for a comeback. Yet, Jyoti Chauhan's header ensured that India's victory was secure, showcasing the depth and talent within the squad.

The Indian women's football team is set to face reigning champions Bangladesh in their next Group A match on Wednesday. The top two teams from the group will progress to the semifinals, and with this emphatic victory, India looks poised to make a strong run in the tournament.

# Chennaiyin FC beat NorthEast United FC 3-2 in ISL

AGENCIES  
GUWAHATI, OCT 18

Chennaiyin FC produced a come-from-behind 3-2 victory over NorthEast United FC in a five-goal blockbuster at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium here in their Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 fixture on Thursday night.

The ISL season resumed after the October international break with a fantastic clash as both teams unleashed their impressive attacking prowess.

A brace from Wilmar Jordan Gil and a spot-kick from Lukas Brambilla helped Owen Coyle's men return to winning ways.

The Highlanders, buoyed by the brilliant home support, had a roaring start to the match. They produced a sensational counterattack, which ended with Part-hib Gogoi finding Nestor Albiach in space in the penalty box. The Spanish midfielder took the opportunity to hand the hosts an early lead in the fifth minute.

It was a continuous

seesaw battle between the two teams, as none could control the midfield with authority. Both teams had a flurry of chances in the first half.

Lukas Brambilla and Connor Shields combined well with Farukh Choudhury and Irfan Yadwad to create good openings for Chennaiyin FC. They were finally rewarded when Shields, with his exceptional corner delivery found Wilmar Jordan in the box and the Colombian rose highest in the box to restore parity for the visitors in the 25th minute.

The equaliser swayed things in Chennaiyin FC's favour as they started to raise the tempo of their gameplay. In the 34th minute, a shirt tug from Michel Zabaco on Ryan Edwards saw Chennaiyin FC get rewarded with a penalty. Brambilla stepped up and calmly slotted it past Gurmeet Singh, handing the Marina Machans a crucial lead.

The second half was more of the same for both teams. However, Chennaiyin FC made the most

of their opportunity when Wilmar Jordan doubled the lead in the 51st minute after the entire North-East United FC defence switched off, expecting it to be flagged offside.

The hosts had the lion's share of possession in the second period but hardly created any openings to claw their way back into the game. Meanwhile, Owen Coyle turned to Elsinho to add stability to his midfield and defence.

Laldinliana Renthlei was given marching orders in the 83rd minute after he received his second yellow card. There was drama left in the game as Yadwad dragged Alaaeddine Ajarai down in the penalty box, handing NorthEast FC United an opportunity to pull one goal back.

Ajarai stepped up and deceived Samik with a calm spot-kick in the 89th minute, marking his fifth goal in as many games this season. However, in the end, it was not enough for the Highlanders to salvage something from the game as Chennaiyin FC grabbed the three points.

# Virat Kohli becomes fourth Indian to reach 9000 Test runs milestone

AGENCIES  
BENGALURU, OCT 18

India batter Virat Kohli has added another feather to his highly illustrious cap as he completed 9,000 Test runs in the ongoing match against New Zealand at M Chinnaswamy Stadium. He reached the milestone during India's second innings.

Kohli became the fourth Indian batter to reach the feat after Sachin Tendulkar (15,921), Rahul Dravid (13,265) and Sunil Gavaskar (10,122). Among them, Kohli is the slowest to reach the milestone in terms of innings taken (197). The 35-year-old batter, who has not hit a Test fifty in 2024, smashed his 31st Test half-century as India were put

under pressure by New Zealand after posting 402 in the first innings. Kohli is the second-highest Test run-getter among active players after England's Joe Root (12,716 runs). In the overall list, he is placed in 18th spot.

Glenn Phillips finally



ended Kohli's innings for 70, which included eight fours and a six as India were 231/3 at stumps on Day 3. Sarfaraz Khan is unbeaten on 70 as India trail by 125 runs after bundling out 46 in the first innings, their lowest total at home.

Kohli and Sarfaraz had a 136-run partnership for the third wicket to stabilise the innings after the wickets of Yashasvi Jaiswal (35) and India captain Rohit Sharma (52).

Earlier, an excellent 134 from Rachin Ravindra - his second Test century - helped New Zealand take a lead of 356 runs after their first innings ended at 402 in 91.3 overs. For India, spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav were the pick of the bowlers by taking three wickets each.

# Xavier Bartlett eyes T20I return against Pakistan after injury setback

AGENCIES  
ADELAIDE, OCT 18

Rising fast bowler Xavier Bartlett eyes Australia's international comeback after an unfortunate side strain brought an early end to his campaign in the tour of England earlier this year.

The 25-year-old is eager to add to his growing tally of international caps as he works his way back to full fitness. Bartlett's side strain occurred during the first T20 against England in September, just 3.4 overs into his first international match on English soil.

The injury ruled him out for the rest of the T20 series and the subsequent five-match ODI series. It was a frustrating moment for Bartlett, who had burst onto the scene in February with back-to-back four-wicket hauls in ODIs against West Indies.

Reflecting on the injury and his recovery, Bartlett said: "It's been about five weeks now since I've done that side strain. I'm back to a full run-up now, so it's really starting to take shape. I've never done one before ... it was obviously really disappointing and frustrating to pick it up when I did." Bartlett was quoted by cricket.com.au as saying.

Despite missing out on a spot in Australia's ODI squad for the upcom-



ing series against Pakistan, Bartlett remains hopeful of making a comeback in the T20 series that follows. With matches in Sydney, Hobart, and Brisbane, Bartlett has his sights set on the first T20 at the Gabba on November 14 - a venue where he has built an impressive record playing for the Brisbane Heat.

"It's something that you do dream of as a kid, to try and play a game for Australia at your home ground. So if that opportunity arises, it'd be a pretty cool moment," said Bartlett.

Bartlett has excelled at the Gabba, taking 20 wickets in just 13 games for

the Heat, averaging a wicket every 13 balls. Playing in front of his home crowd for Australia would mark a significant milestone in his career, adding to the motivation as he continues his recovery.

Before aiming for a national recall, Bartlett is expected to play in upcoming Sheffield Shield and one-day matches for Queensland as he builds match fitness.

Despite the challenges, Bartlett remains focused on the future and is determined to continue his rise in international cricket. "I've got one eye on the T20 series against Pakistan," he said.

# ISL 2024-25: Mumbai City eye first win of season against FC Goa in high-stakes West Coast Derby

AGENCIES  
GOA, OCT 18

The upcoming Saturday double header of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 will kick off with the West Coast Derby between FC Goa and Mumbai City FC at the Fatorda Stadium. The two teams share a unique rivalry, with there being separate phases when the two of them held the upper hand over the other.

The Gaurs overcame the Islanders repeatedly until 2019-20, but the tables turned from the following season onwards, when Sergio Lobera switched to Mumbai City FC. Last season, they drew both the league-stage fixtures, but the Islanders beat FC Goa in the two legs of their semi-final game.

Mumbai City FC are in quest of their maiden victory of the campaign, having drawn twice and lost once in their three matches until now - placed 11th in the table. The Gaurs have accumulated five points from



four games, and recent track record suggests both of them will want to start afresh after the international break. Out of the 26 ISL fixtures between these two teams, Mumbai City FC have won 12 matches and FC Goa have emerged triumphant seven times. Seven games have resulted in a draw. Mumbai City FC have conceded 2+ goals in each of their last two away fixtures, and head coach Petr Kratky is cognisant that they need to improve in

that aspect, along with on the offensive side to secure the required results.

"For us, if we play home or away, it's the same thing. FC Goa is a quality team, but if we stick to our plans, defend and attack well, we need to improve in all the areas and we will do our best against Goa, or any other opponent," said Kratky in the pre-match press conference.

Despite crashing out in the semis last year to Mumbai City FC, FC Goa

head coach Manolo Marquez ruled out the possibility of seeking any revenge. The Gaurs have kept two clean sheets in their last 11 games, but the Spaniard has assured that they will be putting their best foot forward against the Islanders.

"For me, there's no question of revenge (against MCFC). We will be facing a strong, a very good team, but for sure we will be a tough side for them too, since we will be very competitive," said Marquez.



## MP Er Rashid visits Budgam, holds series of meetings

JNEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, OCTOBER 18

Member of Parliament (MP) Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency, Er Rashid Friday visited Budgam district to assess ongoing developmental projects and addressing the key concerns of the constituencies in Budgam that fall under the Baramulla parliamentary seat.

The meeting was attended by the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo and other district officers and officials.

During the review, Er Rashid emphasized the need for expediting infrastructure projects and ensuring effective service delivery to the public. He underscored the importance of addressing bottlenecks impeding developmental projects to facilitate general public.

Earlier, Er Rashid conducted inspection visit to



District Hospital Budgam, where he interacted with medical staff and patients, assessing the hospital's infrastructure and the quality of services being provided. He also visited Beerwah Hospital, where he sanctioned funds for the purchase of a laparoscopy machine and an oxygen refill plant, aimed at enhancing the hospital's capacity to deliver improved medical care to patients in the region.

Later, Er Rashid held a detailed meeting with

the Geology and Mining Department, focusing on the sustainable extraction and management of local resources. He raised concerns about the environmental impact of unregulated mining and stressed the need for adopting practices that protect natural resources while enabling economic growth.

The MP urged the department to ensure proper checks on illegal mining activities. The meeting also explored

potential opportunities for the region to develop local industries around mineral resources, creating jobs and boosting the local economy.

Furthermore, Er Rashid chaired a review meeting with the Rural Development Department, where he discussed the progress of ongoing rural development schemes. During the meeting, the MP sanctioned Rs 30 lakhs for installing lights in rural areas to improve public safety and infrastructure.

Additionally, he approved the allocation of 30% of the material components for various development schemes, ensuring that essential resources are available for the timely execution of projects. He stressed the need for quicker implementation of infrastructure projects such as roads, water supply, and sanitation in rural areas.

Er Rashid highlighted the importance of ensuring that development schemes are inclusive and reach the most remote and underserved communities. He also called for enhanced coordination between local bodies and the department to address the specific needs of the rural population, particularly in terms of generating employment through government schemes like MGNREGA and boosting the local agrarian economy through targeted initiatives.

## Surprise Inspection of Government Offices held at Bandipora

JNEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 18

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Shabir Ahmad Wani, on Friday conducted a surprise inspection of various government offices located in the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The surprise inspection aimed to assess employee attendance and operational efficiency to ensure accountability and uphold high standards of public service.

During the inspection, the ACR reviewed biometric attendance records, engaged with staff members, and evaluated workplace conditions to promote a culture of responsibility and enhance the overall effectiveness of government offices.

On the occasion, ACR emphasized maintaining punctuality and a productive work environment for delivering quality services, reinforcing the importance of transparency and dedication within the offices.

He said that no laxity will be allowed in the maintenance of proper discipline and punctuality in government offices, in the interest of the greater common good and efficient public service delivery.

## Power Shutdown

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 17

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, in order to carry out branch cutting, the power supply to Hakbara, Army Camp, Manasbal, Chandergarh, Hajin, Preng, Banayari, Madwan, Shahgund, Sudunara and Mokdamyari areas shall remain affected from 09 am to 03:00 pm. Similarly, to carry out branch cutting, the power supply to Chahkoot, Chersoo and Panzgam areas shall remain affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 21st October, 2024. Also, to carry out conductor stringing and GI installation, the power supply to e Ompora, Khanpora, Zoorigund, Mohanpora, Sheikhpora, SIDCO and NIFT areas shall remain affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 20th October, 2024.

## Day 2 of Gurez Visit: DC Bandipora conducts Foot Tour of remote Areas

JNEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 18

On the second day of extensive tour of the Gurez Subdivision, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Friday visited remote and far-flung areas of the subdivision, including Bozgay, Rufooji, and other areas of Tulail. He conducted parts of the visit on foot to reach the most distant locations.

During his visit, the DC engaged directly with the local population, meeting residents to listen to their grievances and concerns.

He gained a deeper understanding of the



challenges they face, particularly related to infrastructure, healthcare, and essential services.

The DC assured the public that their issues would be addressed promptly. He emphasized the administration's com-

mitment to providing solutions and improving living conditions in these remote areas.

The visit also focused on reviewing the developmental needs of the region, with the DC personally identifying areas

requiring immediate attention.

He assured residents of continued support and collaboration from the administration to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the area. The DC noted that the visit was part of ongoing efforts to bring governance closer to the people, ensuring that even those in the most remote regions of the district have their voices heard and needs met.

During his visit, the DC was accompanied by SDM Gurez, Mukhtar Ahmad, and other concerned officers from the Sub-Divisional and District Administration.

## GMC Srinagar hosts maiden annual national critical care update conference

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 18

The Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, Pain and Palliative Medicine Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar, under the guidance of Professor Dr Hina Bashir, HoD Department of Anaesthesiology, Critical Care, Pain and Palliative Medicine GMC Srinagar organised the first annual national critical care update conference and workshop under the aegis of Indian Association of Anaesthesiologists and the All India Difficult Airways Association.

Renowned faculty from AIIMS New Delhi, PGI Chandigarh, AMU Aligarh presented the latest techniques and cutting edge updates in critical care settings.

Endorsed by the All India Difficult Airway Association (AIDAA), the conference brought together leading experts, practitioners, and students from across the nation. Renowned experts in airway management and critical care delivered keynote speeches and facilitated workshops, fostering a rich exchange of ideas.

The comprehensive workshop focused on crucial aspects of critical care viz Advanced Airway Management. The Participants learned cutting-edge techniques and approaches to managing difficult airways,



ensuring preparedness for complex situations. The workshop also focussed on Point-of-Care Ultrasonography (POCUS).

The session provided hands-on training on effective use of POCUS in critical care settings, enabling rapid and accurate diagnoses.

Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, who was chief guest on the occasion, virtually inaugurated the conference and congratulated GMC Srinagar and the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care for organizing the conference.

In his address, the Health Secretary emphasised the importance of utilising the latest techniques in critical care, stating that staying updated

with advancements in the field is crucial for delivering optimal patient care. He highlighted the significance of conferences like this in promoting knowledge sharing, skill-building and collaboration among healthcare professionals. He encouraged the participants to leverage the expertise of renowned speakers and the hands-on training opportunities provided during the workshop.

Director SKIMS, Professor Mohammad Ashraf Ganai was the special guest on the occasion while Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar, Professor Iffat Hassan, Professor Vimmi Rewari from AIIMS New Delhi, Professor Syed Moied Ali from Aligarh Muslim University, Professor Kajal Jain from PGI

Chandigarh, Principal/Dean Government Dental College Srinagar, Professor Ajaz Ahmad Shah and Administrator Associated Hospitals GMC Srinagar, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak besides HODs, experts and other faculty members were also present.

On the occasion, a souvenir book and an ICU protocol book were also released.

Director SKIMS Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ganai emphasized the importance of staying updated with the latest critical care advancements during his address at the conference.

Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar, Prof Iffat Hassan highlighted GMC's commitment in providing quality healthcare education, stating that at GMC Srinagar we strive to create a talent pool of skilled healthcare professionals. Our mission is to create a talent pool of skilled healthcare professionals, equipped to address the complex challenges in patient care, she added.

Professor Hina Bashir HOD Deptt of Anaesthesiology and critical care GMC Srinagar emphasised that the hands-on training was essential in critical care, bridging the gap between theory and practice. Meanwhile, commemorating the World Anesthesiologists day as a Go Green initiative the department of Anesthesiology GMC Srinagar planted saplings in the GMC campus.

## Career Counseling Awareness programme held at DIET Shopian

JNEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 18

A one-day awareness programme on Guidance and Career Counseling was held at DIET Shopian, where around 100 students from secondary and senior secondary schools actively participated.

The programme aimed to provide insights into various career paths, empowering students to make informed decisions about their future.

Dr. Mohammad Yousuf, Senior Faculty Member, DIET Shopian, threw light on the importance of career counseling and how it serves as a game-



changer for today's youth, helping them break free from traditional career choices and pursue their dreams with confidence.

During the session, District Information Officer (DIO) Shopian, Showkat Hussain Ganie (JKAS) delivered a motivational speech, encouraging students to take charge of their career choices and make use of the resources provided.

The session also featured presentations from DIET faculty members, offering detailed information and guidance on various career options available after secondary and senior secondary education.

These sessions were designed to educate students about the wide array of career opportunities available to them, enabling them to choose paths aligned with their interests and abilities. The event received a positive response from the participating students, who appreciated the opportunity to gain valuable insights into potential career paths.

## UT-Level Inter-District Yoga Competition for all Age Groups commences in Baramulla

JNEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 18

The UT-level Inter-District Yoga Competition for all age groups officially started at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Baramulla.

Organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K, the prestigious event is being hosted by the DYSS Baramulla. The inaugural session of the competition featured the participation of boys in the Under-14 category, with teams from 15 districts across Jammu & Kashmir converging in Baramulla to showcase their skills in the ancient practice of yoga.

The event was inaugurated by the Principal of GHSS Baramulla, who extended a warm welcome to the participants and inspired them to embrace the discipline of yoga, highlighting its sig-



nificance in maintaining physical and mental well-being.

DYSSO Baramulla, also welcomed the participants and expressed his gratitude to the YSS J&K for entrusting Baramulla with the responsibility of hosting this major competition. He emphasized the role of yoga in fostering harmony, balance, and overall health, and encouraged the young participants to continue incorporating it into their

daily lives. The first day of the competition witnessed enthusiastic participation and a display of remarkable talent from the young athletes, setting the stage for an exciting series of events in the days to come.

The Yoga competition will continue with participation from all age groups, fostering a spirit of camaraderie, discipline, and healthy competition among the youth of the Union Territory.

## DM Jammu calls for inspection of firecrackers godowns

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 18

Taking a firm stance on firecracker regulations ahead of Diwali, District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya today directed Sub-Divisional Magistrates to inspect all firecracker godowns and submit action taken reports within three days, warning of strict legal action against violations.

During a comprehensive Diwali preparedness meeting, the DM emphasised zero tolerance for deviations from safety norms. "All SDMs must thoroughly inspect licensed firecracker godowns in their jurisdictions and take immediate legal action against any violations discovered. Action taken reports must also be submitted within three days," he instructed.

The DM's directives specifically focussed on ensuring strict compliance



with licence conditions by both sellers and storekeepers. Officers were told to verify proper storage practices and maintain vigilant oversight of temporary firecracker stalls being set up across the district.

The meeting also outlined broader festival preparations, with the Fire Services Department being tasked to deploy fire tenders at strategic locations for emergency response. Traffic management measures were discussed, including potential vehicle movement

restrictions during peak festival days.

Addressing civic concerns, the DM instructed the Jammu Municipal Corporation to implement a special cleanliness drive throughout the festive period.

The high-level meeting saw participation from Additional District Magistrate Ansuya Jamwal, Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Faisal Qureshi, along with Sub-Divisional Magistrates and senior officers from various departments.

## DC Shopian approves 11 cases of sponsorship for POCSCO victims

JNEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 18

A meeting of the District Level Committee was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar for approval of sponsorship cases for POCSCO Victims of the district. A total of eleven (11)

cases were approved for sanction of financial assistance in favour of child victims of sexual violence. The assistance is given to the victims to provide them necessary support for rehabilitation and education purposes. The DC also reviewed a case of Legal guardian certificate. He gave directions to committee members under

the National Trust Act to verify the case for issuance of Legal Guardian certificate. The certificate is issued to the guardian of a person, suffering from Multiple disorders like Mental disorder, Autism, cerebral palsy, who can run his/her bank account and manage property of specially-abled person and take care of the person.