

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:

- Headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Severe ten pain or more, head or neck, joint or bone
- Redness

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 11 | ISSUE NO: 247 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

Don't be annoyed, we will get back what has been snatched from us: Omar tells NC workers in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 19

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday urged the party workers not to be annoyed as all efforts will be made to get back what has been snatched from the people.

"We are a UT but don't be annoyed. We will get back what has been snatched from us," Omar said addressing party workers in Jammu, as per news agency. Omar's statement comes amid criticism from various quarters that NC has dragged its feet from the core demand of getting back the special status.

Omar said in the past people of J&K saw deputy chief minister from other parties and it was for the first time that a Hindu deputy chief minister had been chosen from the Jammu region. "This is a reply for those who used to target us by saying that NC is a party of dynasts only. What will they say today. Deputy CM Surinder Choudhary



has no relation with me and my family," Omar said. "Making Deputy CM was not a compulsion for me. My only motive was to convey to the people of Jammu that they have equal share in government as that of Kashmir. Today, we have a CM and Deputy CM from the same party. This is a reply to those who used to say that NC is a party for Muslims."

Omar said that Congress has not decided on whether it wants some share in the council of ministers.

He said NC could have perhaps won more seats. The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to

independent candidates who won and right away extended support to NC. Omar said that elections were yet to be out and people started making statements that Jammu will face injustice as there will be no representative in the government. "From day one, I have been saying that I will take the people of Jammu along so that Jammu people don't feel they have no share in the government," he said.

Omar said the delimitation was done to benefit one single party and reservation was another move to ensure victory for one particular party.

CONTINUED ON ►► PAGE 4

LG Sinha administers oath to Mubarak Gul as pro-tem speaker



JI NEWS SERVICE
Srinagar, Oct 19

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday administered oath of office to senior National Conference leader Mubarak Gul, who won the assembly election from Eidgah constituency, as pro-tem speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly

According to news agency, Mubarak Gul was administered the oath of office during a ceremony at Raj Bhawan.

Chief minister Omar Abdullah, deputy chief minister Surinder Choudhary, cabinet ministers including Sakina Yattoo, Javed Dar, Javed Rana, and Satish Sharma, chief secretary Atal Dulloo

CONTINUED ON ►► PAGE 4

Two terrorists involved in multiple terror attacks captured at Surankote, Poonch: ADGP Jain

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 19

In a significant blow to terror infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, security forces claimed to have solved several grenade attack cases in Poonch with the arrest of two terrorists of the Jammu and Kashmir Ghaznavi Force (JKGF) in the district.

As per officials, police along with troops of 37 Rashtriya Rifles and 38th Battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) nabbed Aziz and recovered two hand grenades from his possession.

During investigation, one more grenade was recovered from his house and his accomplice Husain was also arrested along with a pistol, one magazine and nine rounds, the ADGP told reporters in Poonch., as per news agency.

A defence spokesman said in a statement that said joint operation was carried out that resulted in the capturing of two terrorists, Abdul Aziz and Manwar Hussain.

"Security forces also recovered

CONTINUED ON ►► PAGE 4



LG Sinha, Omar Abdullah condemn killing of migrant worker in Shopian

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 19

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and chief minister Omar Abdullah Saturday condemned the killing of a migrant worker in south Kashmir's Shopian district yesterday.

In a post on X, LG Sinha, as per news agency said that the security forces are determined to hunt down the culprits and bring them to justice.

"I strongly condemn the brutal killing of a vendor Ashok Chauhan in Shopian by cowardly terrorists. The entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with his family. Our security forces are determined to hunt down the culprits and bring them to justice. My thoughts are with his family members and friends in this time of grief. I have directed

CONTINUED ON ►► PAGE 4

Cabinet recommends LG to summon assembly on November 04

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 19

The Jammu & Kashmir cabinet has recommended to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to summon Legislative Assembly from November 04.

In an official handout, as per news agency the government said the cabinet has decided summoning of the Legislative Assembly at Srinagar on November 4, 2024 and advised Lieutenant Governor to summon and address the Legislative Assembly.

The draft address of the Lieutenant

CONTINUED ON ►► PAGE 4

CM reaffirms commitment to ensuring balanced development across all districts of Jammu region



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 19

Several delegations from various districts of Jammu region met Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today at

his official residence in Jammu.

The visiting deputations raised critical developmental concerns pertaining to their respective areas, seeking the Chief

Minister's intervention.

This marked Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's first such visit to Jammu since assuming office on Wednesday only in Srinagar.

During the interaction, the delegations expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for his leadership and congratulated him on taking charge.

CONTINUED ON ►► PAGE 4

Govt mulls 'phased-enhancement of ration' for J&K People

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 19

Jammu and Kashmir government Saturday said that it was serious about enhancement of ration for the people as the issue will be discussed in the cabinet meeting soon.

Talking to reporters here, Food Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs (FCS&CS), Satish Sharma said that the government is very much concerned about the ration issue. "We are aware that people are getting less ration. We are seriously planning to enhance the ration for the people. Let it be in a phased manner. We will discuss the issue in the

Cabinet and also take it up with the Centre," the Minister said, as per news agency.

He said that there are clear cut directions from the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah that the government must work for the welfare of people. Sharma said that he will take the review of the department, get feedback from the officers in J&K over the issue of ration enhancement.

At present people are getting 5 kg per soul ration. If there are five people in a family, they get 25 kgs rice. Farooq Ahmed, who runs a fair price shop in Srinagar, said that those having a PHH ration card get 5 kg free ration and 10

kg at the rate of Rs 25. He said that those having an NPHH ration card, they get rice at the rate of Rs 15.50 with no free ration facility.

"There is a dearth of ration for people undoubtedly," said Ahmed. He said there should be a 10 kg ration per person at subsidised rates. About non availability of Sugar, he said that supply reaches ration depot once in three months that too in less quantity. "We hardly get Sugar supply. Same is the case with Atta. We distribute one kg atta along with the rice to the families who really need it. Some deny taking

CONTINUED ON ►► PAGE 4

PM Modi to launch 23 projects worth in Varanasi today

AGENCIES
VARANASI, OCT 19 (UNI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Varanasi on Sunday and launch a host a large number of projects worth Rs 6,611.18 crore.

Kashi is fully prepared to offer a grand welcome to its MP.

As a third-term MP from Varanasi, PM Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for 23 development projects valued at Rs 6,611.18 crore.

He will inaugurate a range of public facilities, including those related to healthcare, education, sports, religion, tourism, employment, housing, and aviation.

Among the key projects, he will lay the foundation stone

CONTINUED ON ►► PAGE 4

A blaze that killed million dreams: Mul Warwan residents demand prefabricated houses to beat harsh winters

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCT 19

With winters knocking the door and harsh days yet to come, the biggest concern for the 95 affected families in Mul village of Warwan district of Kishtwar is the construction of houses where they can save their lives in the upcoming snowy days.

As per the news agency, the affected people are looking towards the Union Territory (UT) government and especially towards the Lieutenant Governor (LG) to come to their rescue and construct prefabricated houses for the affected families.

At present around 500 people, who lost everything in the blaze, are either living in tents, homes of other people or



in accommodation provided by the district administration. But they want their own houses where they can live along with their livestock and spend the forthcoming winters.

It was on the 14th day of October when fire engulfed the entire Mul

Warwan village and raised everything to the ground, except a few houses which were in the outer circle at a distance.

People could do nothing but to save their lives by running for safety and whatever they had saved to spend the winters was

burnt in the devastating blaze. The cause of the fire is still unknown.

On the immediate basis, district administration through the Red Cross society provided relief in terms of tents and Rs 10000 cash to the affected families.

This village is home to around 500 souls and the source of income for the population is agriculture and labour work.

The only road connectivity to the area is from Margam Top area from Daksum side of district Anantnag, which remains shut for six months of winter.

At the time of any medical or any other emergency, Warwan and Marwah areas are dependent on the chopper service provided by the administration and not many can afford it.

On the fateful day, most of the people were out for work and women folk and elders were in their homes when the fire engulfed the village. People were able to react immediately

CONTINUED ON ►► PAGE 4

Save Sharda Committee, Kashmir calls on MoS PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh



JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCT 19

Save Sharda Committee members called on Dr. Jitendra Singh in New Delhi. The committee headed by its founder and Head, Ravinder Pandita presented the brochure containing the Sharda mission and also discussed a list of demands about Sharda Temple LOC Teetwal Kashmir. The demands include sending a fact find-

ing 2 member team to PoK to know ground assessment of Sharda peeth, widening of Chamkote- Teetwal road, taking up of land procurement with Custodian General for Yatri niwas, setting up of full body scanner, expediting process and bus service from Srinagar to Teetwal.

The minister discussed point by point demands and suggested redressal measures.

Mehandi Naksh competition organised at GDC Marh

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 19

IQAC and BSG of Government Degree College Marh, in collaboration with its Cultural Committee organized a Mehndi Naqsh designing competition with the dual purpose of enhancing the creative skill and artistic talent of students and marking the celebration of Karva Chauth.

Students from all the semesters converged to showcase their proficiency in applying intricate mehndi naqsh designs. The competition promoted Indian culture and unity. Students applied mehndi designs to the staff members and also among themselves. The competition was held under the supervision of the cultural committee of the college and under the guidance of the Principal of the college Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul.

The principal blessed all the faculty and students of the college with joy and happiness and motivated them to enhance Indian Culture and spread its richness to the whole world. He further added that one of the major functions of education is to preserve and transmit our cultural



values from generations to generations and in this respect they play a major role in society.

The Judges for the competition were Prof Anita Kumari (HOD English), Dr. Sheetal Sharma (HOD Dogri) and Dr. Ruchika (Deptt of English).

Sweetie Kaith from semester 3rd, Mehridhi Sharma from semester 1st, whereas Anjali Sharma from semester 5th were adjudged first, second and third position respectively.

Consolation prizes were given to Ria and Roshani of 1st semester.

The whole programme was organised under the Supervision of Dr. Ashu Jolly (Convenor Cultural Committee) and Asstt Prof Asha Devi (Co-Convenor Cultural Committee).

Appreciation Certificates to position holders and all the participants were also given to all by the Principal of the college and in the end all together enjoyed the refreshment.

DDC Chairman inaugurates newly constructed Dharamshala at Kalgoni Mandir Changa-Doda



JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 19

Chairman District Development Council (DDC) Doda Dhananter Singh Kotwal today inaugurated a newly constructed Dharamshala at the revered Kalgoni Mandir in Block Changa.

The event witnessed the presence of key officials including SDM Gandhoo, Arun Badyal, and Block Development Officer (BDO) Changa, Akeel Kamal. The Dharamshala has been constructed under

the Capex DDC grant to benefit devotees. The DDC Chairman stressed the significance of the Dharamshala in providing much-needed rest and shelter to devotees visiting the temple, especially during religious festivals and events. He also highlighted the role of Capex grants in driving local development, ensuring better facilities for both residents and visitors. The initiative is part of broader efforts to enhance infrastructure in rural and remote areas.

The Dharamshala is expected to benefit hundreds of devotees, offering them comfortable and safe accommodations during their visits to the temple. Chairman Kotwal emphasized that such facilities not only improve the experience of the pilgrims but also support the cultural and religious heritage of the region. He reiterated the council's commitment to further improving public amenities across Doda to enhance the overall quality of life in the district.

Mission Director HADP inspects fruit plant Nursery at Samba



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, OCTOBER 19

Rahul Yadav, Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme J&K today visited the Fruit Plant Nursery established by the Department of Horticulture at Vijaypur Samba. He was accompanied by Director Horticulture Jammu C.L.Sharma. During the visit, the MD reviewed the activities being undertaken by the Department under HADP in the nursery. He inspected the Mother Block of Dragon wherein 1300 plants have been planted in 6 k area with a provision of 480 sq mtr shade net house having all micro irrigation facilities and other automation interventions being taken up under

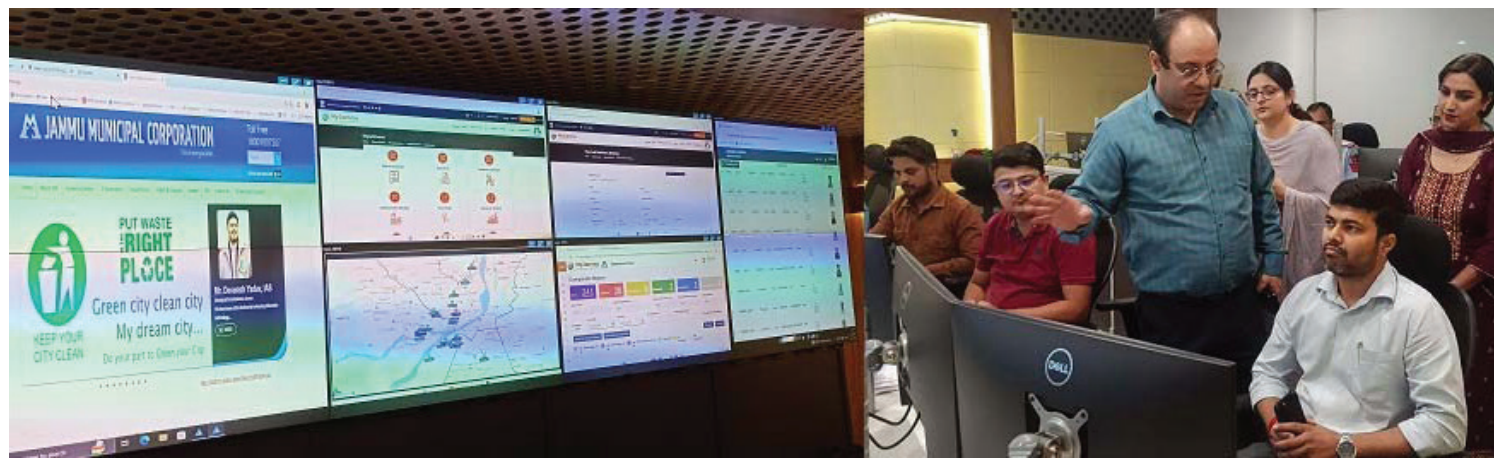
HADP. The Director Horticulture informed the MD HADP about the latest varieties of Guava, Mango and Date palm being grown in the Nursery.

The MD instructed the officers to work with zeal and make maximum efforts to reach every farmer and make them aware about the interventions being taken up under HADP so that the objective of the scheme is well achieved.

This will attract youth in lucrative avenues of Agriculture and allied sectors which offers great self employment opportunities in diverse fields.

Chief Horticulture Officer Samba Mukesh Sharma and other officers of the Department were also present there.

JMC launches revamped Public Grievances & Feedback Management System



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 19

Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav today launched Revamped GIS & Digital door Numbering based Public Grievances & Feedback Management System, online web application for Municipal Men & Machinery booking and Toll Free Number 18001807207 for receiving public grievances.

The enhanced system is designed to streamline the resolution of public complaints by incorporating cutting-edge GIS technology and a Digital Door Numbering system. This new approach will enable faster and more efficient service delivery to the citizens of Jammu.

This toll-free number and an online grievance portal also help residents to report complaints related to Dengue and Chikungunya. This initiative aims to tackle the increasing cases of vector-borne diseases as well as submit requests for fogging and spraying in their areas, enabling quick response and effective control measures. By providing a dedicated platform for complaints, JMC seeks to enhance its disease prevention efforts through timely intervention such as fogging, spraying, and proper sanitation. This step is part of a broader public health campaign to ensure the city stays vigilant and proactive in

managing the spread of these diseases.

Furthermore, as part of JMC efforts and readiness for Swachh Survekshan 2024, this initiative allows residents to report issues such as waste collection, cleanliness, and overall sanitation in their areas. The goal is to ensure timely resolution of these grievances, contributing to the city's cleanliness and improving its ranking in the Swachh Survekshan survey. By facilitating easy access to sanitation services and addressing complaints efficiently, JMC aims to promote a cleaner environment and enhance public participation in maintaining hygiene standards. This move is part of the larger Swachh Bharat Mission to make cities cleaner and healthier across India.

By launching these platforms, JMC seeks to enhance public participation and ensure that the city performs well in the Swachh Survekshan 2024, which assesses the cleanliness of cities across India. This step also reinforces the broader goal of achieving a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

The revamped platform introduces the following key features:

GIS & DDN Based Public Grievance & Feedback Management System:

This innovative system uses Geographic Information System (GIS) technol-

ogy combined with Digital Door Numbering to streamline the process of reporting and managing public grievances. Citizens can now easily report issues like sanitation, illegal constructions, water supply, and road maintenance etc with their exact location being accurately mapped through the DDN system.

This approach enhances the efficiency of addressing complaints, allowing JMC to identify specific problem areas and respond faster. The system also includes a feedback mechanism, enabling residents to track the status of their complaints and provide input on the quality of services. In the feedback system if the complainant is not satisfied with the disposal of the complaint then he/she can show dissatisfaction by appealing and reopening of the complaint. This move is aimed at improving accountability, transparency, and the overall delivery of municipal services, contributing to better governance and enhanced civic engagement.

Toll-Free Public Grievance Helpline offers a dedicated toll-free number (18001807207) for offline mode, providing the public with a direct line to report grievances, which will be logged and tracked in real-time through the new system. Citizens can now call the toll-free number to register their

complaints related to various municipal services.

Online Web Application for Booking Municipal Men & Machinery: A user-friendly online platform has been developed for booking JMC services such as Garden Waste Collection, Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste Collection, Water Tanker Services, Septic Tank Clearance Machines, JCB, Tippers, Auto etc.

Key Features of the Municipal Men & Machinery Booking System are Garden Waste Collection. Residents can book garden waste collection services to ensure the timely removal of organic waste from their properties, promoting a cleaner and greener city.

Through C&D Waste Collection, the citizens involved in construction or renovation can now easily book services for the collection and disposal of construction and demolition waste, ensuring proper management of debris and minimizing environmental hazards.

Another feature, the Water Tanker Services provides an efficient way to request water tanker services for areas facing water shortages or in need of additional water supply.

Septic Tank Clearance Machines are available where residents can book septic tank clearance services, ensuring hygienic sanitation practices and the prevention of waste

buildup.

Key benefits of the Online Booking System offers Easy-to-navigate interface for booking municipal services, Transparent tracking of service requests, Quick and convenient scheduling options.

The Commissioner said that the launch of this revamped grievance system marks a major milestone in our ongoing mission to improve service delivery and civic engagement. With GIS integration and Digital Door Numbering, we aim to provide more accurate, timely, and efficient solutions to our citizens' concerns. This new web application is designed to make the process of booking JMC services more efficient, allowing citizens to select the required services and schedule them with ease, from the comfort of their homes. The platform also provides real-time updates on the status of service requests.

This system will ensure that citizens can access essential services easily and with greater transparency. JMC is committed to improving the quality of life for the citizens of Jammu by embracing modern technology to provide faster, more reliable services. This revamped platform will enhance public engagement and improve service accountability, ultimately leading to a cleaner and more sustainable city.

DDC Chairman inaugurates newly created facilities at Captain Sanjay Arya Memorial GHSS Kilhotran



JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA OCTOBER 19

DDC Chairman Dhananter Singh Kotwal inaugurated multiple facilities at Captain Sanjay Arya Memorial Higher Secondary School (HSS) Kilhotran.

The newly established facilities include an Art and Craft Room, a Computer Room, a Science Laboratory, and a fully-equipped Library. The event was attended by prominent officials, including CEO Doda P.L. Thapa, DEPO Dr. Anis Ahmed, Executive Engineer PWD Gandoh Atta Mohd Sheikh, BDO Changa, Principal Dr. Bhushan Kr Sharma, and ZEO Bhalessa, alongside

local dignitaries Amar Chand and Javed Zargar.

Chairman expressed pleasure at revisiting the school and praised its role in shaping numerous successful individuals, including JKAS officers, engineers, doctors, and the highly respected Desh Bhagat, Captain Sanjay Arya. He emphasized the school's contribution to society, stating that education plays a crucial role in building future leaders. He further highlighted India's remarkable economic progress, noting that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India has become the fifth-largest economy in the world, with the poten-

tial to grow even further. Chairman encouraged students to aim for greater excellence by pursuing proper education and hard work. He also stressed the importance of women's empowerment and lauded the various initiatives launched by the Prime Minister to uplift both youth and women.

Additionally, he called for the modernization of education to meet the demands of the fast-evolving technological landscape. He urged teachers to prepare students for the competitive world by equipping them with the necessary skills to succeed in today's dynamic environment.

DC Kulgam reviews progress on R&B and PMGSY Works

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, OCTOBER 19

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today convened a meeting of officers to review the physical and financial status of works under the Roads and Buildings (R&B) department and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

Executive Engineers from R&B and PMGSY briefed the chair about the progress made on various roads and build-

ings projects. During the meeting, the DC stressed the need to accelerate the pace of ongoing projects, particularly focusing on meeting the macadamization targets set for the current year.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure timely execution of all works, emphasizing the importance of quality and accountability in the process.

Later, the DC chaired a separate meeting with officers from (KPDC) to assess the power supply

situation in the district. He instructed the concerned to ensure smooth and scheduled power supply to all areas of Kulgam.

The DC also reviewed progress made on construction of NH-444 Brazloo Bridge and instructed the concerned to ensure earliest completion of the bridge.

The meeting was attended by ACR, JDP and Executive Engineers from R&B, PMGSY, NH 444 besides BDOs and other officers.

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2024

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

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS ORIGINATING/TERMINATING IN NORTHERN RAILWAY

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency / Day	Period
02252	New Delhi	08:25	Patna Jn	20:00	Tri-weekly	Wednesday, Friday, Sunday 30.10.24 to 06.11.24
02251	Patna Jn	07:30	New Delhi	19:00	Tri-weekly	Thursday, Saturday, Monday 31.10.24 to 07.11.24
02270	Lucknow	14:15	Chhapra	21:30	6 Days a week	Except Tuesday 25.10.24 to 08.11.24
02269	Chhapra	23:00	Lucknow	06:30	6 Days a week	Except Tuesday 25.10.24 to 08.11.24
02248	New Delhi	08:25	Patna Jn	20:30	Tri-weekly	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 29.10.24 to 05.11.24
02247	Patna Jn	07:30	New Delhi	19:35	Tri-weekly	Wednesday, Friday, Sunday 30.10.24 to 06.11.24
04052	New Delhi	14:20	Jaynagar	15:40	Date Wise	Sat, Tue, Fri, Mon 26, 29, 10.24, 01 & 04.11.24
04051	Jaynagar	18:00	New Delhi	18:50	Date Wise	Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue 27, 30, 10.24, 02 & 05.11.24
04054	New Delhi	14:20	Barauni Jn	11:00	Date Wise	Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue 27, 30, 10.24, 02 & 05.11.24
04053	Barauni Jn	12:30	New Delhi	09:10	Date Wise	Mon, Thu, Sun, Wed 28, 31, 10.24, 03 & 06.11.24
02250	New Delhi	23:55	Patna Jn	16:40	Weekly	Thursday 24.10.24 & 31.10.24
02249	Patna Jn	17:50	New Delhi	11:00	Weekly	Friday 25.10.24 & 01.11.24
04075	New Delhi	23:45	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:40	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday Upto 17.11.24
04076	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	21:20	New Delhi	09:30	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Monday Upto 18.11.24
04498	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:30	Ballia	13:30	Weekly	Sunday Upto 24.11.24
04497	Ballia	18:40	Anand Vihar Terminal	14:25	Weekly	Monday Upto 25.11.24
04022	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:40	Sitamarhi	15:45	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Friday Upto 29.11.24
04021	Sitamarhi	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:05	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Saturday Upto 30.11.24
04032	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:15	Saharsa Jn	10:30	5 days a week	Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun Upto 30.11.24
04031	Saharsa Jn	13:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:10	5 days a week	Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sun Upto 01.12.24
04624	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:45	Varanasi Jn	23:55	Weekly	Sunday Upto 17.11.24
04623	Varanasi Jn	05:30	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:25	Weekly	Tuesday Upto 19.11.24
04080	Delhi Jn	19:30	Varanasi Jn	09:45	Tri-Weekly	Monday, Thursday, Saturday 24.10.24 to 16.11.24
04079	Varanasi Jn	18:25	Delhi Jn	08:50	Tri-Weekly	Tuesday, Friday, Sunday 25.10.24 to 17.11.24
04530	Bhatinda Jn	20:50	Varanasi Jn	17:30	Bi-weekly	Monday, Friday 25.10.24 to 15.11.24
04529	Varanasi Jn	20:40	Bhatinda Jn	17:00	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Saturday 26.10.24 to 16.11.24
04096	Anand Vihar Terminal	09:00	Ayodhya Cantt	22:30	Tri-Weekly	Monday, Wednesday, Friday Upto 18.11.24
04095	Ayodhya Cantt	09:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	22:00	Tri-Weekly	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday Upto 19.11.24
04518	Chandigarh	23:15	Gorakhpur	18:20	Weekly	Thursday 24.10.24 to 14.11.24
04519	Gorakhpur	22:05	Chandigarh	14:10	Weekly	Friday 25.10.24 to 15.11.24
04060	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:30	Jaynagar	15:15	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday 25.10.24 to 15.11.24
04059	Jaynagar	17:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:55	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Saturday 26.10.24 to 16.11.24
04068	Delhi Jn	19:30	Darbhanga Jn	16:30	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday 25.10.24 to 15.11.24
04067	Darbhanga Jn	18:00	Delhi Jn	16:35	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Saturday 26.10.24 to 16.11.24
04044	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Gorakhpur	14:00	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday 26.10.24 to 26.11.24
04043	Gorakhpur	17:25	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:40	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday 27.10.24 to 27.11.24
04217	Varanasi Jn	06:25	Lucknow Jn	11:45	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun Upto 22.11.24
04218	Lucknow Jn	16:30	Varanasi Jn	21:50	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun Upto 22.11.24
04010	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:45	Jogbani	05:20	Weekly	Tuesday 29.10.24 to 12.11.24
04009	Jogbani	09:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:05	Weekly	Thursday 31.10.24 to 14.11.24
04678	Firozpur Cantt Jn	13:25	Patna Jn	17:00	Weekly	Wednesday Upto 13.11.24
04677	Patna Jn	18:45	Firozpur Cantt Jn	22:40	Weekly	Thursday Upto 14.11.24
04211	Varanasi Jn	14:50	Chandigarh	07:45	Weekly	Saturday 26.10.24 to 16.11.24
04212	Chandigarh	09:30	Varanasi Jn	01:20	Weekly	Sunday 27.10.24 to 17.11.24
04553	Saharanpur	04:40	Ambala Cant Jn	06:45	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun Upto 30.11.24
04554	Ambala Cant Jn	20:20	Saharanpur	22:30	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun Upto 30.11.24
04682	Jammu Tawi	23:20	Kolkata	13:00	Weekly	Tuesday Upto 14.11.24
04681	Kolkata	23:45	Jammu Tawi	12:30	Weekly	Thursday Upto 14.11.24
04078	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:55	Patna Jn	16:25	Weekly	Monday Upto 18.11.24
04077	Patna Jn	17:50	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:00	Weekly	Tuesday Upto 19.11.24
04646	Jammu Tawi	05:45	Barauni Jn	12:10	Weekly	Thursday Upto 14.11.24
04645	Barauni Jn	15:15	Jammu Tawi	22:30	Weekly	Friday Upto 15.11.24
04038	Delhi Jn	19:10	Azamgarh	11:30	Weekly	Sunday 27.10.24 to 17.11.24
04037	Azamgarh	13:30	Delhi Jn	06:10	Weekly	Monday 28.10.24 to 18.11.24
04312	Haridwar Jn	12:30	Howrah Jn	17:10	Weekly	Thursday Upto 14.11.24
04311	Howrah Jn	19:00	Haridwar Jn	23:30	Weekly	Friday Upto 15.11.24
04314	Haridwar Jn	12:30	Muzaffarpur Jn	07:30	Weekly	Friday Upto 15.11.24
04313	Muzaffarpur Jn	09:00	Haridwar Jn	05:30	Weekly	Saturday Upto 16.11.24
04058	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Muzaffarpur Jn	21:30	Bi-weekly	Monday, Thursday 24.10.24 to 14.11.24
04057	Muzaffarpur Jn	23:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday 25.10.24 to 15.11.24
04062	Anand Vihar Terminal	09:00	Barauni Jn	06:30	Weekly	Sunday Upto 17.11.24
04061	Barauni Jn	08:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:10	Weekly	Monday Upto 18.11.24
02246	Hazrat Nizamuddin	23:55	Patna Jn	16:40	Bi-weekly	Monday, Wednesday Upto 27.11.24
02245	Patna Jn	17:50	Hazrat Nizamuddin	10:50	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Thursday Upto 28.11.24
04526	Sirhind Jn	11:25	Saharsa Jn	17:00	Weekly	Monday Upto 18.11.24
04525	Saharsa Jn	19:15	Ambala Cantt Jn	22:20	Weekly	Tuesday Upto 19.11.24
04006	Delhi Jn	23:05	Jaynagar	23:45	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday Upto 26.11.24
04005	Jaynagar	01:30	Delhi Jn	01:30	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Sunday Upto 28.11.24
04048	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:20	Katihar Jn	15:00	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday Upto 26.11.24
04047	Katihar Jn	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	17:50	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Saturday Upto 27.11.24
04070	New Delhi	00:20	Rajgir	21:00	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday Upto 30.11.24
04069	Rajgir	22:50	New Delhi	23:10	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday Upto 30.11.24
02262	New Delhi	00:20	Darbhanga Jn	21:15	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday Upto 27.11.24
02261	Darbhanga Jn	23:20	New Delhi	20:15	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday Upto 27.11.24
04226	Lucknow Jn	15:40	Tatanagar Jn	09:10	Date Wise	Sunday 20.10.24
04225	Tatanagar Jn	11:00	Lucknow Jn	04:55	Date Wise	Monday 21.10.24

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS PASSING THROUGH NORTHERN RAILWAY NETWORK

03575	Asansol Jn	10:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:05	Weekly	Friday Upto 29.11.24
03576	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:15	Asansol Jn	10:20	Weekly	Saturday Upto 30.11.24
03435	Malda Town	09:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	14:10	Weekly	Monday Upto 25.11.24
03436	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:45	Malda Town	23:30	Weekly	Tuesday Upto 26.11.24
03255	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Thursday Upto 14.11.24
03256	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:20	Patna Jn	17:20	Bi-weekly	Monday, Friday Upto 15.11.24
02391	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Weekly	Saturday Upto 15.11.24
02392	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:20	Patna Jn	17:20	Weekly	Sunday Upto 10.11.24
03257	Danapur	07:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:30	Weekly	Sunday Upto 10.11.24
03258	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Danapur	20:45	Weekly	Monday Upto 11.11.24
05219	Muzaffarpur Jn	13:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	06:00	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun Upto 31.12.24
05220	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:00	Muzaffarpur Jn	00:45	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun Upto 01.01.25
05109	Chhapra	17:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:50	Weekly	Wednesday Upto 27.11.24
05110	Anand Vihar Terminal	12:55	Chhapra	06:45	Weekly	Thursday Upto 28.11.24
05023	Gorakhpur	21:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:15	Weekly	Sunday Upto 24.11.24
05024	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:15	Gorakhpur	04:45	Weekly	Monday Upto 25.11.24
05301	Mau Jn	04:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:30	Weekly	Thursday Upto 28.11.24
05302	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:25	Mau Jn	17:45	Weekly	Friday Upto 29.11.24
05005	Gorakhpur	14:40	Amritsar Jn	09:30	Weekly	Wednesday Upto 27.11.24
05006	Amritsar Jn	12:45	Gorakhpur	08:50	Weekly	Thursday Upto 28.11.24
05049	Chhapra	09:55	Amritsar Jn	09:30	Weekly	Friday Upto 29.11.24
05050	Amritsar Jn	12:45	Chhapra	14:00	Weekly	Saturday Upto 30.11.24
02525	Kamakhya	22:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:50	Weekly	Friday Upto 29.11.24
02526	Anand Vihar Terminal	17:20	Kamakhya	03:40	Weekly	Sunday Upto 01.12.24
05671	Guwahati	15:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:50	Weekly	Wednesday Upto 27.11.24
05672	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:45	Guwahati	14:15	Weekly	Friday Upto 29.11.24
05734	Katihar Jn	11:40	Amritsar Jn	00:10	Weekly	Thursday Upto 28.11.24
05733	Amritsar Jn	04:25	Katihar Jn	15:00	Weekly	Saturday Upto 30.11.24
03413	Malda Town	07:10	New Delhi	07:30	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Sunday Upto 28.11.24
03414	New Delhi	10:30	Malda Town	07:55	Bi-weekly	Friday, Monday Upto 29.11.24
03483	Bhagalpur	11:00	New Delhi	07:10	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday Upto 30.11.24
03484	New Delhi	10:30	Bhagalpur	04:10	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday Upto 27.11.24
05565	Saharsa Jn	19:30	Sirhind Jn	00:05	Weekly	Thursday 14.11.24 to 26.12.24
05566	Sirhind Jn	02:00	Saharsa Jn	09:45	Weekly	Saturday 16.11.24 to 28.12.24
03107	Sealdah	00:10	Lucknow Jn	00:10	Weekly	Saturday Upto 30.11.24
03108	Lucknow Jn	01:40	Sealdah	23:50	Weekly	Sunday Upto 01.12.24
09075	Mumbai Central (Via Bareilly)	11:00	Kathgodam	14:30	Weekly	Wednesday Upto 25.12.24
09076	Kathgodam (Via Bareilly)	17:30	Mumbai Central	20:55	Weekly	Thursday Upto 26.12.24

09657	Daurai (via Barabanki Jn)	15:00	Barhni	13:25	Weekly	Saturday Upto 16.11.24
09658	Barhni (via Barabanki Jn)	19:15	Daurai	19:20	Weekly	Sunday Upto 17.11.24
03423	Bhagalpur	13:55	Haridwar Jn	17:55	Weekly	Monday Upto 25.11.24
03424	Haridwar Jn	19:55	Bhagalpur	21:20	Weekly	Tuesday Upto 26.11.24
05736	Katihar Jn	21:00	Amritsar Jn	09:45	Weekly	Wednesday Upto 27.11.24
05735	Amritsar Jn	13:25	Katihar Jn	23:45	Weekly	Friday Upto 29.11.24
05047	Banaras	22:00	Ghaziabad	11:45	Weekly	Tuesday Upto 26.11.24
05048	Ghaziabad	12:35	Banaras	05:35	Weekly	Wednesday Upto 27.11.24
02397	Gaya Jn	14:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:10	6 Days a week	Except Saturday Upto 15.11.24
02398	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:20	Gaya Jn	00:30	6 Days a week	Except Sunday Upto 16.11.24
05283	Muzaffarpur Jn	06:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun Upto 21.10.24
05284	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:00	Muzaffarpur Jn	04:50	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun Upto 22.10.24
02393	Patna Jn	20:10	New Delhi	12:10	6 Days a week	Except Thursday Upto 30.10.24
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Patna Jn	07:00	6 Days a week	Except Friday Upto 31.10.24
04123	Prayagraj Jn	14:30	Hazrat Nizamuddin	11:10	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday Upto 27.11.24
04124	Hazrat					

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Don't be annoyed...

"But results are before you. These all moves failed. The steps taken by (BJP) took them to elections but couldn't win elections for them," he said.

He said winning elections was an easy thing but a "real task begins now." "We have to minimise the peoples' miseries and reduce the gap between people and the government," Omar said, adding that "We have to serve people and resolve their issues."

Omar said that in the past eight years, no stone was left unturned to remove NC from the political scene. "But our workers and leaders stood like a rock and defeated all designs against. NC is not a party of leaders but a committed cadre as proved in the recent elections," he said. The Chief Minister said the government won't act as per vote share but "keep the flock together."

He said that directions have already been passed to the officers in Panchayats and DDC's where peoples feedback wasn't taken, should be reviewed.

Omar said when he lost Lok Sabha polls, he felt as if it was difficult for him to rise again. "But nature has its own principles. Many officers and friends would have thought about me that Khatam, Maklou, it's over (for Omar). But today, the same people greet me in the morning, afternoon and evenings. Many ask me whether I had lunch. Many now text me, good night have a nice sleep...This is Almighty's way of doing things," Omar said. "But we should not feel proud of winning polls. The way people have given us the opportunity they can tomorrow punish us as well."

Omar also reached out to the media fraternity stating that no iron-fist policy will be adopted for the media in J&K. "I will not punish you for writing against me. I will ensure the media remains free and works in a free and fearless atmosphere. I am aware that many journalists were not given accreditation and press cards. I will gradually resolve this discrepancy," he said.

He urged media men to highlight wherever the government commits any mistake but at the same high also highlight the good work of the NC government. KNO

LG Sinha administers...

and adviser to chief minister Nasir Aslam Wani were also present on the occasion.

Gul was appointed as pro-tem speaker of Jammu and Kashmir assembly on Friday. He will administer oath to newly elected member of Jammu and Kashmir assembly on October 21 at 2 p.m. KNO

Two terrorists involved...

weapons, ammunition, and grenades from the suspects, disrupting their operational capabilities. This operation marks a crucial step in dismantling terror networks, as both individuals were involved in orchestrating terror activities, including grenade attacks on religious sites and hospitals, terror financing, anti-national propaganda, and arms smuggling," the defence spokesperson said.

The recent arrests have weakened the logistical and operational networks of terror groups in the region, signaling a strong setback to their efforts. The Indian Army's swift and coordinated response, in collaboration with the J&K Police, has not only ensured the safety of civilians but has also dealt a decisive blow to the terror ecosystem in the area. This success follows last month's arrest of another associate, underscoring the relentless efforts of the Indian Army and security forces to ensure peace and stability in the region.

Addressing a press conference, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu Zone, Anand Jain said the arrest of Abdul Aziz and Manwar Hussain of Hari village is a "very big achievement" for the security agencies.

"They are part of a larger conspiracy and tried to create terror in Poonch district by carrying out grenade attacks at various locations, including a temple, a gurdwara, an Army camp and a hospital, to harm brotherhood," he said.

Jain said with the arrest of the two terrorists, who had links across the border, all five cases of grenade attacks that took place in the district since November last year have been solved.

"The busting of the JKGF module is a very big achievement for all security agencies," he said, adding that the terrorists are being questioned.

The questioning of the terrorists so far has revealed that they received four consignments of arms, ammunition and Rs 1.5 lakh from their handlers across the border, police said.

They were trained in handling pistols and also fired a few rounds for practice in the forest area, they said.

According to police, Aziz was involved in throwing grenades at the Shiv temple in Surankote on November 15 last year; Gurdwara Mahant Sahib in Poonch on March 26; Army sentry post in Kamsar, Poonch in June; and a school ground near CRPF sentry post on August 14.

Hussain had lobbed a grenade near district hospital quarters on July 18, police said.

The two terrorists also pasted anti-nation-

al posters at different locations in Surankote, including government high school in Hari, Dhundak, Sanai, Eidgah-Hari and other adjoining areas. These posters were printed at Hussain's house and pasted in August last year on the directions of their handler to create fear among the public, police said.

On September 12, another member of this module, Mohd Shabir, a resident of Daryala, was arrested with a large quantity of explosives. Aziz had supplied the explosives to him, they said.

ADGP Jain said the operations against terrorists, including foreign mercenaries, will continue.

"We are also working to destroy the support base of the terrorists and will ensure attachment of properties of the upper ground workers," he said.

Jain lauded the security forces for ensuring the peaceful conduct of the Budha Amarnath Yatra and Lok Sabha and assembly elections. KNO

LG Sinha, Omar...

the Jammu Kashmir Police & District Administration to extend all the support," he said.

Meanwhile, chief minister Omar Abdullah also condemned the migrant workers killing, stating that these attacks are abhorrent and must be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

"Very sorry to hear about the death of Ashok Chouhan at the hands of militants in South Kashmir. These attacks are abhorrent & must be condemned in the strongest possible terms. I send my condolences to the family & loved ones of the deceased," he said.

Bullet-riddled body of a migrant worker, identified as Ashok Chauhan of Bihar, was found in Waduna area of Zainapora in south Kashmir's Shopian district on Friday. KNO

CM reaffirms commitment...

They brought to his attention pressing issues, particularly those related to infrastructure development and social services, requesting the government's immediate attention to these matters.

Responding to the issues of the delegations, the Chief Minister assured the deputations that their concerns would be taken seriously.

He reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring balanced development across all districts of the Jammu region, emphasizing the government's priority to address the needs of every community.

Govt mulls 'phased...

Atta and instead want rice. We somehow manage things," he said as per KNO.

Bilal Ahmed, who manages a ration depot in a Srinagar locality, said that people are not satisfied with the ration distribution system in Kashmir. "Those getting free ration are feeling relieved only because they get some ration free but the quantity is also less for them. Similarly, NPHH ration card holders also complain of getting less ration per month," he said. He said that any move to increase the ration per soul or per family will be a major breather for the people of J&K. KNO

A blaze that killed...

and left the area to save lives. As most of the houses were made of wood, it didn't take much time for the fire to raze everything to the ground.

People were left helpless to douse the fire as there were no fire tenders available in the entire region. Even tap water wasn't also available due to the absence of pipes which the Jal Shakti department hasn't provided to the people.

"Had there been fire tenders or water available through pipes, people would have been able to save something. They were looking towards their houses being razed to the ground with helpless eyes and all their belongings vanished within no time," Sheikh Zafarullah, District Development Council member from Marwah, told KNO.

In 2016, a devastating fire consumed everything in three villages Sukhni, Margi and Chuidraman and the state government had assured to provide fire tenders for the area to stop any mishap in the future. But after eight years of the massive fire, things couldn't move forward and this time another village has been brought to ashes.

This time Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, during his visit to the area, assured people to open a fire service centre there but so far things are as it is.

Since this incident, people and non government organizations of different areas of Jammu and Kashmir have reached the area to provide relief in terms of ration, quilts, blankets, mattresses, clothes and other items and are distributing the same to affected families.

To ensure everything is distributed judiciously, locals of the area have formed a committee headed by Mufti Shahnwaz, who is coordinating with the NGOs and people coming from outside. But what the people require immediately is material to construct prefabricated houses which can save their

lives during the harsh winters ahead.

"These houses need to be constructed immediately otherwise there will be lots of difficulty for the affected people. They are looking towards the government to provide the help alongside the NGOs but so that neither administration nor the UT government has taken a step towards it. Even the already announced amount of 1.29 lakh per family hasn't been released," Zafarullah said.

"We will require a huge effort to rehabilitate the people and everybody will have to play their role. The minor support provided by the administration is not going to serve the purpose," he added. KNO

Cabinet recommends...

Governor to the Legislative Assembly at the commencement of the first session was also placed before the council of ministers which it decided shall be further considered and discussed. KNO

PM Modi to launch...

for the expansion of Varanasi Airport and the construction of a new terminal. Additionally, he will inaugurate the RJ Shankara Eye Hospital and address an audience of over 20,000 people at the Sigra Sports Stadium.

From the stage, the Prime Minister may announce a new initiative by the Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust to provide free meals for caretakers at Sanskrit schools and hospitals. As per the schedule, he will arrive

in Varanasi at around 1 p.m. and depart by 6 p.m.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Governor Anandi Ben Patel will welcome the Prime Minister, while several central and cabinet ministers, including both Deputy Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, are expected to attend the event. Officials from the Civil Aviation Ministry and the Olympic Association are also likely to be present.

BJP Kashi region president Dilip Patel said that the people of Kashi will welcome PM Modi with drums and flower showers upon his arrival on Sunday. BJP workers have also organized welcome arrangements at various locations.

After inaugurating the Shankara Netralaya at Harhua Ghazipur Ring Road from Babatpur International Airport, the PM will travel by road to the Sigra Sports Complex, where he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for several development projects.

In addition, he will address a large public gathering at Sigra Stadium, with an expected attendance of over 20,000 people, including athletes, sports enthusiasts, intellectuals, dignitaries, public representatives, and BJP workers.

He will inaugurate the state-of-the-art R Jhunjhunwala Shankara Eye Hospital, constructed at a cost of Rs 90 crore, which is part of his parliamentary constituency in Varanasi.

Besides, 14 projects, including the Sigra Stadium built at a cost of Rs 380.13 crore, will be dedicated to the public. The foundation stone for two major schemes, with

a total investment of Rs 2,874.17 crore, will also be laid.

PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate the modern RJ Shankara Eye Hospital, constructed at a cost of Rs 90 crore in Harhua Ghazipur Ring Road-1, Madhopur village, under the auspices of the Srikanchi Kamkoti Medical Trust. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Governor Anandi Ben Patel will also be present at the event.

The hospital aims to provide superior and free eye care to economically disadvantaged individuals across Purvanchal and neighboring states of Uttar Pradesh. The inauguration ceremony will also be attended by Jagad-guru Vijayendra Saraswati, Peethadhipati of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham, along with saints and mahants of the Peetham, as well as over a thousand people associated with their tradition.

According to Vishwa Bhushan Mishra, Chief Executive Officer of the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust, the Trust, in collaboration with Natyakotam Sanstha, has arranged to provide meals for students in 16 Sanskrit schools and attendants in 3 hospitals. A trial run of the Satvik Sanatan Kitchen was conducted at the Annakshetra in Jammu Kothi, located in Godaulia, within the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple premises.

The scheme will initially serve meals to around 3,000 beneficiaries, with plans to expand to 5,000 beneficiaries in the future. A successful trial of the free food initiative was completed on Friday, and the Prime Minister is expected to announce the programme on October 20.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW POONCH

TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 102 of REW POONCH 2024-25 Dated:-18-10-2024 1st Call

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch, as his representative invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt/CPWD/MES for the following work under:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estt. Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds
1	Up-gradation of Road from W. No. 1 to W.No. 07 Pyt. Draba Khaitan Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	2.97	200	5940	30 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 24-10-2024 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
2	Construction of Pacca Tile Path at W.No. 2 Pyt. Draba Khaitan Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		1.60	200	3200	30 days			
3	Up-gradation of Road from Kalla Ziarat to Jabri at W.No. 3 Pyt. Draba Khaitan Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		3.47	300	6940	30 days			
4	Construction of B/Path/P/Work Moh. Darran to Debtian at W.No. 4 Part-II Pyt. Draba Khaitan Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		1.80	200	3600	30 days			
5	Up-gradation of Tractor Road W.No. 5 Pyt. Draba Khaitan Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		1.50	200	3000	30 days			
6	Construction of Bathroom at Moh. Jabri W.No. 3 Near L/o Zahida Parveen Pyt. Draba Khaitan Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		1.80	200	3600	30 days			
7	Construction of Road Near Babu Mohd Sharief W.No. 03 Pyt. Draba Khaitan Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		1.80	200	3600	30 days			
8	Construction of Road W.No 06 Danna Near L/o Lal Mohd S/o Haji Abdul Kareem Pyt. Draba Khaitan Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		1.80	200	3600	30 days			
9	Construction of P/Work Near Talib Hussain S/o Jamal Din Pyt. Draba Khaitan Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		1.50	200	3000	30 days			
10	Construction of P/Work Near Abdul Aziz S/o Said Mohd Pyt. Draba Khaitan Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		1.00	200	2000	30 days			
11	Concrete P/work on River Site to L/o Yasmeen Akhter village Ghanaban Mahra Bufflaiz Pyt. Mahra-A Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		1.50	200	3000	30 days			

12	Up-gradation of Janaza Gha/Eid Gha at Mohalla Sawni W.No. 06 Pyt. Mahra-A Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	2.45	200	4900	30 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 24-10-2024 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
13	Up-gradation of Drain W.No. 05 Mohalla Dani Pyt. Mahra-A Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		2.45	200	4900	30 days			
14	Up-gradation of Graveyard at Tata Pani W.No. 07 Pyt. Mahra-A Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		2.45	200	4900	30 days			
15	Up-gradation of Drain from W.No. 01 to W.No. 04 Pyt. Mahra-A Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		5.00	300	10000	30 days			
16	Up-gradation of Drain at Mooori Pyt. Mahra-A Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		2.45	200	4900	30 days			
17	Construction of B/Path/R/Wall at Moh. Path and Part-II at W.No. 03 Pyt. Mahra-A Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		4.00	300	8000	30 days			
18	Repair and Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies at Path W.No. 04 Pyt. Mahra-A Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		1.50	200	3000	30 days			
19	Construction of R/Wall/B/Wall Near the L/o Master Nazir Hussain Pyt. Mahra-A Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		1.50	200	3000	30 days			
20	Up-gradation of Road from Road to Health Centre at W.No. 04 Pyt. Mahra-B Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		2.00	200	4000	30 days			
21	Up-gradation of Graveyard at W.No. 04 Pyt. Mahra-B Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		2.00	200	4000	30 days			
22	Up-gradation/Tile Work of Eidgah at Chatyari W.No. 05 Pyt. Mahra-B Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		3.00	200	6000	30 days			
23	Construction of B/Path/P/Work Near Graveyard W.No. 07 Pyt. Mahra-B Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		2.00	200	4000	30 days			
24	Repair/Renovation of PS Nangal Bani Pyt. Mahra-B Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		2.00	200	4000	30 days			
25	Concrete Bund Near Jhulla Bridge Pyt. Bufflaiz-A Block Bufflaiz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25		2.61	200	5220	30 days			

NOTE: The Contractors registered with DDC, Poonch in reference to GOVT. Order No: 238-F of 2021, Dated 07-09-2021 can participate upto an amount of Rs 3.00 Lacs, in local Panchayat works.

- The already defaulted contractors are not allowed to participate in any tendering work of REW Division Poonch.
- Subletting of allotted work is not allowed and will attract strict legal action, even cancellation of contract with imposition of costs and penalty etc, if any successful bidder is found involved in same at any stage.

NOTE: No PRI member shall be allowed to take part in Tendering process

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18-10-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 18-10-2024 to 23-10-2024, 1855 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	18-10-2024 from 1500 Hrs onwards
4	Bid Submission End Date	23-10-2024 up to 1855 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (in case of holiday, the bid shall be opened on next day)	24-10-2024 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW, Poonch
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (of only successful technical bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website <https://www.jktenders.gov.in/> to acquaint bid submission process. No:- XEN/REW/P/1442-50

Dated:-18-10-2024

DIP/J-5880/24

Date: 19-10-24

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Wing
Poonch

Lok Adalat on MACT & Matrimonial Cases held across Kashmir

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19

In accordance with the 2024 calendar of the J&K Legal Services Authority, all the District Legal Services Authorities of Kashmir division today organized Lok Adalats at their respective District Court Complexes and other subordinate Courts for amicable resolution of MACT (Motor Accident Claims Tribunal) and matrimonial cases.

The said Lok Adalat was held under the direction of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority.

This event aimed to provide speedy justice and alleviate the backlog of pending MACT and Matrimonial Cases across Kashmir.

In Anantnag, a Special Lok Adalat for MACT and Matrimonial Cases was held today at District Court Complex Anantnag.

Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Administrative Judge, Anantnag) inaugurated Special Lok Adalat for MACT and Matrimonial cases at District Court Complex Anantnag.

On his arrival, the Judge was formally welcomed by Tahir Khurshid Raina, Pr. District & Sessions Judge Anantnag, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, Sr. Superintendent of Police Anantnag, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Anantnag, Ld. Judicial Officers of Anantnag, Secretary DLSA, President Bar Association Anantnag, other Bar Members and staff of District Court Anantnag.

In the Lok Adalat, Justice Koul distributed the compensation cheques to claimants whose cases got settled in the Lok Adalat.

A total of 11 MACT cases were taken up and 06 MACT cases were settled on spot in which a sum of Rs. 85,40,000 was awarded as compensation.

After participation in the Special Lok Adalat, the Administrative Judge interacted with members of Bar and Judicial Officers physically and virtually for action plan and speedy disposal of cases pending for more than 05 years in the courts.

The Judge was informed by the Deputy Commis-

sioner Anantnag and Executive Engineer Anantnag of the progress of the new court complex and the preparation of laying foundation stone thereof very soon

Thereafter, the Judge gave standing instructions to Deputy Commissioner for facilitating comfortable residential accommodation of judges posted at District Headquarter and also expressed the requirement of better infrastructure for facilitating convenience and strain free adjudication of cases and administration of justice

The Judge then inspected the court rooms of District Court Complex Anantnag physically and interacted with presiding Officers in their court rooms.

In the said Lok Adalat, a total of 121 cases were taken up in different benches constituted and 79 cases were settled by amicable means.

The Lok Adalat was conducted under the overall supervision of Chairman DLSA with participation of Secretary DLSA, Staff, LADCs and PLVs of DLSA Anantnag.

In Srinagar, the Lok Adalat was organized by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, at the District Court Complex Mominabad, Srinagar.

The Lok Adalat was held under the supervision of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Srinagar, and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-judge/Secretary DLSA Srinagar.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, 04 benches were constituted for the said Lok Adalat. Overall 152 cases were taken up for settlement, out of which 71 cases were amicably settled and Rs. 65,91,000 was awarded as settlement amount in MACT & Matrimonial Cases.

In Budgam, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam organized a Lok Adalat on MACT and Matrimonial Cases in the District Court Complex, here.

The said Lok Adalat was organized under the chairmanship of OM Prakesh Bhagat, Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Budgam and under



the guidance of Secretary DLSA Budgam, Nusrat Ali Hakak.

Each Court had identified cases for the said Lok Adalat before hand and same were placed before Four (04) different benches constituted by DLSA Budgam for their amicable settlement.

A total number of 44 MACT and Matrimonial cases were taken up for

amicable settlement, out of which 12 cases were settled.

In Ganderbal, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal conducted Lok Adalat on MACT and Matrimonial Cases today in the District.

The Lok Adalat was held under the supervision and chairmanship of Abdul Nasir, Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge)



Ganderbal, and under the guidance of Tabassum, incharge Secretary DLSA (Chief Judicial Magistrate), Ganderbal.

The Lok Adalat was constituted of two benches for the amicable settlement of cases, wherein overall 100 cases were taken up for settlement out of which 59 cases were settled and an amount of Rs. 15,61,900 was awarded as settlement amount.

In Pulwama, Lok Adalat for Mact and Matrimonial cases was organized in District Court and other subordinate courts under the Chairmanship of Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District & Sessions Judge), Pulwama and under the supervision of Mudasar Farooq, Secretary DLSA Pulwama.

By the concerted efforts of all presiding officers of



all the courts, cooperation rendered by the learned advocates a total number of 84 cases were taken up by 04 benches in the district, out of which 47 cases were amicably settled in the said Lok Adalat.

An amount of Rs. 6,91,000 was awarded as settlement amount in all cases including one Mact Case.

In Kulgam, Lok Adalat was held in District Court Kulgam, under the chairmanship of Aijaz Ahmed Khan, PDJ (Chairman District Legal Services Authority) Kulgam.

For amicable settlement of MACT and matrimonial cases referred to the Lok Adalat, four benches were constituted, two at Headquarter and one each at D.H.Pora and Qazigund.

In the said Lok Adalat a total number of 48 cases were taken up. Out of which 09 Cases including 02 MACT cases were amicably settled. An amount of Rs.49,00,000 was awarded in 02 MACT cases.

In Shopian, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian under the aegis of Legal Services Authority J&K today organized a Special Lok Adalat on MACT and Matrimonial Cases under the Chairmanship of Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary, Chairman DLSA (Principal District & Session Judge) Shopian at District Court Complex Shopian.

For the said Lok Adalat 02 Benches were constituted by the DLSA. The said benches took

up 34 Cases related to Civil Cases, MACT Cases, Matrimonial Cases, out of which 05 Cases were settled amicably with a settlement amount Rs.11,04,000.

In Kupwara, the District Legal Services Authority, Kupwara organized Lok Adalat on MACT and Matrimonial Cases, across District Kupwara today.

The said Lok Adalat was held under the supervision of Shazia Tabasum, Chairperson, DLSA, (Pr. District & Session Judge) Kupwara and guidance of Moneer Ahmad, Secretary DLSA Kupwara.

Four (04) Benches were constituted for the said Lok Adalat. A total of 29 cases were taken up by all the benches, of which 17 cases were disposed off as settled on spot by intervention of the benches and by participation of the lawyers and litigants.

An amount of RS 33,32,418 was awarded in the said special lok adalat.

In Bandipora, Lok Adalat on Mact & Matrimonial Cases was held under the supervision of Chairman DLSA, (Pr. District & Session Judge) Bandipora, Khalil Ahmad Choudhary and guidance of Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun Secretary DLSA, Bandipora.

A total of three (03) Benches were constituted for the said Lok Adalat that took up a total of 53 Cases for settlement, out of which 15 Cases were settled as disposed. A total sum of 3,00,000 was awarded to the aggrieved parties by settlement during the said Lok Adalat.

Mubarak Gul visits Legislative Complex



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19

Pro tem speaker of Legislative Assembly, Mubarak Gul, today visited the Legislative Complex to oversee arrangements for the oath ceremony to be administered to the newly elected members on Monday.

During his visit to the complex, pro tem Speaker took round of the Assembly Hall, Meeting Halls, as well as the chambers designated for the Chief Minister, Speaker, Deputy Speaker and others. He also reviewed functionality of the sound system, internet connectivity,

lights and other amenities necessary for smooth functioning of the complex. He expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and impressed upon the staff to work hard and make serious efforts regarding smooth working of business of the house.

Earlier, Mubarak Gul held an introductory meet with the officers there.

He said that all arrangements should be made in a proper manner for the oath ceremony so that the process runs in a smooth and efficient manner. He said that every official should play his role in a responsible and profes-

sional manner. He also enquired about the proper seating arrangements, parking facilities for the MLA's and plug any loopholes wherever required.

Underscoring the importance of the legislature as a forum for serious debates and discussions, Mubarak Gul opined that we all have to work collectively towards peace, progress and prosperity of the people.

It is pertinent to mention that Mubarak Gul won Eidgah assembly seat in Srinagar for the sixth time and was appointed pro tem Speaker of the legislative assembly on Friday.

Preparations underway for Diwali Celebrations in Samba



JNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, OCTOBER 19

To assess preparations for Diwali Mela and Diwali festival, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma today convened two critical meetings at the District Administrative Complex, Nandani Hills, to ensure seamless organization and security for the event. These meetings focused on coordinating the efforts of stakeholder departments and finalizing arrangements for the celebrations.

The first meeting focused on public safety and security during the

Diwali celebrations. Senior officials in attendance included Senior Superintendent of Police Vinay Kumar; Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Executive Engineers from PWD, Jal Shakti, JPDCL and officers from Fire and Emergency Services and the Traffic Police.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of robust security protocols, effective traffic control, and proper sanitation to ensure a safe environment throughout the celebrations. A dedicated area for the sale of fire-crackers was established, and officers were instruct-

ed to ensure its safe operation. Adequate police deployment, continuous power and water supply, efficient waste management, and medical teams on standby were highlighted as key priorities, along with stringent fire safety measures.

The second meeting, attended by officials including ADC Jagdish Singh, ACR Kusum Chib, representatives from Agriculture, Handicrafts, NABARD, DIC, and the Traffic Department, focused on organizing the Diwali Mela, scheduled on 30th October 2024.

Detailed discussions were held on stall allocation, crowd management, and community outreach to encourage wide participation in the event. The Mela is expected to be a vibrant celebration, and all departments are working closely to ensure its success.

Inspection team recovers Rs 2000 fine from erring traders in Kishtwar



JNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 19

In anticipation of the Karva chouth Festival, a market inspection was conducted today here in the main market area of Kishtwar Township. A joint team of officials from the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Revenue, Municipality, Food Safety Department conducted the inspection to check the quality of products, compliance with quality standards, proper labeling, and pricing regula-

tions. The team recovered Rs. 2000 fine from shopkeepers for overcharging. The team emphasized that ensuring fair trade practices is crucial, particularly during festive seasons when demand surges. Shopkeepers were asked to maintain the quality of goods, especially essential items commonly used during Karva chouth, such as food products, cosmetics and decorative materials. They were strictly warned against indulging in over-profiteering or selling substandard products.

EDITORIAL

Karwa Chauth: A Celebration of Love, Faith, and Tradition

India, a land of vibrant cultures and diverse traditions, offers many festivals that reflect deep-rooted values. Among them, Karwa Chauth stands out as a unique expression of love, sacrifice, and devotion. Celebrated predominantly by married women in North India, this festival goes beyond rituals—it weaves the threads of companionship and trust between partners. However, like many traditions, it also invites reflection and discussion in today's evolving society.

On Karwa Chauth, women fast from sunrise to moonrise for the long life, prosperity, and well-being of their husbands. It is a demanding fast—women abstain not only from food but also from water until the moon appears. The day is marked with vibrant rituals: women dress in beautiful traditional attire, apply henna on their hands, exchange gifts, and gather for prayers, often with songs and folk tales narrating the significance of the fast.

The festival is not just about the fast—it symbolizes the strength of the marital bond, where both partners reaffirm their love and commitment. Husbands, too, play a role in the ceremony, often surprising their wives with gifts or participating in the rituals, making it a shared celebration.

However, Karwa Chauth does not come without its share of critiques. Feminists argue that the festival enforces patriarchal ideals by placing the onus of a husband's well-being on the wife alone. The symbolism of women fasting for the long life of their husbands is questioned—why shouldn't both partners fast for each other's health and happiness?

In recent years, this very question has spurred changes in how some couples approach the festival. Many men now join their wives in fasting, turning it into a mutual act of love. Such gestures demonstrate how tradition can adapt to modern ideas of equality and partnership.

Despite debates, it is essential to view Karwa Chauth through the lens of personal choice. For many, it is less about sacrifice and more about expressing love in a culturally meaningful way. The joy of dressing up, connecting with other women, and engaging in rituals offers a sense of community and belonging that transcends the boundaries of faith and gender.

Karwa Chauth is a reminder of the importance of balance—between tradition and progress, duty and freedom, love and equality. While it may carry traces of antiquated beliefs, it also offers space for reinterpretation. At its heart, the festival is about celebrating the essence of companionship—a sentiment that remains timeless. Whether one fasts or not, what truly matters is the spirit of togetherness and mutual respect that Karwa Chauth seeks to foster.

In a world that is increasingly fast-paced, festivals like Karwa Chauth offer a moment to pause, reflect, and cherish the relationships that matter most. And that is a sentiment we could all embrace, regardless of tradition or modernity.

KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Lao PDR last week to attend the India-ASEAN summit was an important message for allies in the Indo-Pacific region regarding shared interests and common goals. PM Modi laid out a ten-point action agenda plan for upgrading relations with the ASEAN member countries, covering technology cooperation, trade, people-to-people ties, education, health, green energy and a focus on the global south bunch of nations. This comes at a time when External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited Pakistan (a first-in-line visit by any Indian External Affairs minister in the past 9 years) to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. PM Modi during his inaugural address at the ASEAN India summit mentioned "Ten years ago, I announced India's

'Act East' policy. Over the past decade, this initiative has revitalised the historical ties between India and ASEAN countries, infusing them with renewed energy, direction and momentum. Giving importance to ASEAN centrality, we launched the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative in 2019." Clear references were made regarding the Indo-Pacific's centrality for India's foreign policy interests. India has under the current government's foreign policy priorities, kept the Indo-Pacific as a centrepiece. It has joined one of the most significant multilateral platforms, QUAD with the US, Australia and Japan and also entered into an economic partnership framework with the US and several countries in Asia under IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework).

The QUAD even though not a security alliance is focussed on maintaining a rules-based order in the



Indo-Pacific region. India managed to include several crucial pointers inserted in the Chairman HE Mr Sonexay Siphandone's, (also, the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic) statement during the summit. The statement read "We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety, and freedom of navigation in and

overflight above the South China Sea.

We reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation. We further reaffirmed the need to pursue peaceful resolution of dis-

putes in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. We emphasised the importance of self-restraint in the conduct of all activities by claimants and all other states, including those mentioned in the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) that could further complicate the situation and escalate tensions in the South China Sea.

We underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety and committed to maintaining and promoting an environment conducive to the negotiations of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) that is in accordance with International Law, including the 1982 UNCLOS." Meanwhile as expected India did not engage in any bilateral dialogue with the SCO

host country, Pakistan. Relations with Pakistan have been on the edge, for nearly a decade now, with an escalation, when India removed Article 370, regarding a special status for Kashmir. A couple of Pakistan-based terror attacks and India's surgical strike on terrorists on Pakistan soil ensured the relationship has been frosty. Meanwhile, Pakistan's national economy has plummeted in a post-Covid era. The guardian country for Pakistan in the region is India's other real problem, China. However, the binding economic packages China offers, are sure to make Pakistan a colony in the long run. While EAM's visit to Pakistan could be seen as a good goodwill gesture, in the long run, economic bilateral ties and the human bridge between the two nations, would be the only saviour for Pakistan.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Bangladesh reforms: Exaggerated importance

HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

The latest buzzword in Bangladesh is reform.

A report by Reuters, dated August 16, 2024, and carried in the Dhaka Tribune under the heading, "Student protestors plan new party to cement their revolution," quoted Nahid Islam, a coordinator of the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement and an advisor to the interim government, as saying, "The spirit of the movement was to create a new Bangladesh, one where no fascist or autocrat can return," and adding that to ensure that "we need structural reforms, which will definitely take some time." The government, he further said, was not considering calls from the Awami League and BNP to hold fresh polls as early as fall.

According to a report in The Daily Star, datelined August 18, 2024, and carried under the heading "No option but to succeed: Yunus," the interim government's chief advisor said, while addressing foreign diplomats during a "Meet and Greet" session at a hotel in Dhaka, that the interim government would hold a free, fair and participatory election as soon as it could complete its mandate to carry out vital reforms in the election commission, judiciary, civil administration, security forces and

media. He added that the students wanted meaningful and deep reforms, which would turn Bangladesh into a "real and thriving democracy".

Things have been moving. In his address to the nation on September 11, 2024, Yunus announced the names of the heads of six commissions of reform along with the areas of governance they would address. Thus, Shahdeen Malik would lead the Constitutional Reform Commission; Justice Shah Abu Naim Mominur Rahman, the Judicial Reform Commission; Badiul Alam Majumdar, the Election System Reform Commission; Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, the Public Administration Reform Commission; Safar Raj Hossain, the Police Administration Reform Commission; and Iftekharuzzaman, the Anti-Corruption Reform Commission.

Yunus stated in his 32-minute speech that the commissions were expected to start their work from October 1 and finish within the next three months. Thereafter, the interim government would, on the basis of their report, organise discussions with major political parties and, in the final stage, hold comprehensive consultations, spread over three to seven days, with representatives of student bodies, civil society, political parties and the

government. He added, "This discussion will finalise the outline of the reform plan and provide an idea on how it will be implemented."

There was, however, a stumble as early September 18, 2024, when it was announced that the Constitutional Reform Commission was to be headed by Ali Riaz, a Distinguished Professor at Illinois State University in the United States, and not Shahdeen Malik who, one learnt subsequently, had himself opted out, citing his own work load.

Even if the move does not make much of a difference in the commission's work, it indicates inefficiency and thoughtlessness. The interim government should have got Malik's consent before announcing his name as the head of the Constitutional Reforms Commission. Besides, work has not been progressing fast enough. A report in the Dhaka Tribune, datelined October 14, 2024, and carried under the heading "Badiul Alam: Election Reform Commission reviewing laws, regulations," quotes Badiul Alam Majumdar, head of the Constitutional Reform Commission, as saying that laws, regulations, and rules were [being] reviewed as a part of the election review process, "to gain a clear understanding of electoral reforms." The implication is that the commission had

yet to get a clear understanding of its task. At this rate, it is unlikely to finish its work within 90 days of starting it.

Delay is almost certain to happen because the introduction of the proportional representation system is being considered. According to Riadul Karim in his piece, "Proportional system scheme in discussion," in Prothom Alo English (updated on October 15, 2024), the proceedings of a virtual discussion meeting showed that while the BNP opposed the decision and the Awami League's view was not known, both "eminent personalities" and the other political parties favoured it. Given the BNP's opposition, there is bound to be heated discussions and delays if the Constitutional Reform Commission considers proposing such a change.

Given the difficult and contentious nature of the political and administrative terrains to be covered, progress in the other sectors of reform would also be slow unless the commissions have been told what to recommend and the members have agreed. Hence, the urgency of the question, when would the elections be held? The urgent need for an answer is sharply underlined by the absence of the announcement of a timeframe, to say nothing of dates, for holding elections to the new Jatiya

Sangsad or National Parliament. Continued silence on the matter is bound to raise the question: is the interim government planning to become permanent?

Some may regard this as an unwarranted question. The complete overhaul of the civil administration, foreign ministry, judiciary, police and military under way, is, however, significant in this context. The plea is that these have to be rid of those complicit in the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government's gross human rights violations. Given, however, the very large number of people shunted to sinecures, sacked or compulsorily retired before time, the question arises whether all of them were actually guilty, or the interim government is staffing the administration, judiciary, police and military with people who would support its bid to stay indefinitely in power.

The prospect must worry the BNP. With the Awami League being sought to be systematically crippled through murder and large-scale imprisonment, it has every chance of sweeping the parliamentary elections, which have become due following the dismissal of the former parliament on August 6, 2024. It might also ask whether the reforms are so important as to make their completion a pre-requisite for holding elections.

The argument, articulated ad nauseum, that reforms are need for holding free and fair elections and preventing the return of an autocrat to power, is ridiculous. If free and fair elections could be held earlier under caretaker governments, these can be held again under a caretaker government whose composition is sanctioned by all or a majority of parties in Bangladesh.

The point needs to be made because the importance of reforms as a means of ensuring a "real and thriving democracy," is highly exaggerated. The impeccably democratic constitution of the Weimer Republic could not prevent Hitler's ascent to power through the electoral process. No constitutional safeguard can prevent a legally-elected leader becoming a tyrant, or a military coup, or a violent mass-movement forcing the ouster of an existing government, a telling example of which has recently been provided by Bangladesh itself!

The harsh reality is reflected in the sage words of late Justice Learned Hand of the United States who said, "Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can do even much to help."

(The views are personal)

Unveiling Canada's hidden history of injustice

NILANTHA LLANGAMUWA

Chanie Wenjack was a 12-year-old Anishinaabe boy who attended the Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School in Kenora, Ontario, in the 1960s. Like many Indigenous children, he was forcibly removed from his family and placed in the school, where the goal was to assimilate him into Canadian culture. Chanie was lonely, abused, and homesick. In 1966, he ran away from the school, trying to find his way home—over 600 kilometres away. Chanie set out on foot, without proper clothing or food, and tried to follow a set of railway tracks that he believed would lead him back to his family. After days of walking in the freezing October weather, Chanie died from exposure and hunger. His body was found on October 22, 1966, curled up beside the tracks. He was

clutching matches and a frozen lump of sugar in his pocket. He was just a child, lost in a hostile world that had torn him from his family.

This tragic narrative, among hundreds of thousands of similar cases swept under the carpet of history, encapsulates a fundamental contradiction within Canada's national identity—a nation that presents itself as a bastion of multiculturalism, tolerance, and human rights while simultaneously perpetrating profound injustices against its Indigenous peoples. From the brutal implementation of the residential school system to contemporary systemic racism, Canada's historical contradictions are glaring and demand serious examination. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) reported that many children experienced physical, emotional, and

sexual abuse while at these schools—a grim testament to a system that was, in its essence, a form of cultural genocide. This system did not simply end with the closing of these schools; the effects are still felt today, manifesting in intergenerational trauma and systemic discrimination against Indigenous communities.

As the well-known Canadian writer John Ralston Saul aptly notes, "Canada's story is one of contradiction; we celebrate diversity while practising exclusion and denying the full citizenship of Indigenous peoples," adding, "the unconscious civilisation is the one in which we have lost our sense of the individual, in which the individual has become a statistic."

While Indigenous peoples face systemic discrimination, the Canadian government has also engaged in doublespeak



regarding human rights. Canada often positions itself as a global leader in advocating for human rights, yet its track record reveals a different reality. For instance, Canada's participation in international human rights agreements contrasts starkly with its treatment of Indigenous populations. The United Nations has repeatedly criticised Canada for its failure to uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples, pointing to issues such as the lack of access to clean water, adequate housing, and education.

The disparity between Canada's self-image and the lived experiences of marginalised communi-

ties highlights a persistent hypocrisy. Systemic discrimination in Canada impacts not only Indigenous communities but also various racialised groups, who encounter significant barriers in employment, education, and healthcare. This inequitable access reinforces cycles of poverty and marginalisation.

The recent rise in anti-Asian sentiment has exposed the pervasive nature of racism in Canadian society, with hate crimes against Asian Canadians increasing sharply. This alarming trend highlights the fragility of Canada's multicultural narrative and reflects a broader pattern of scape-

goating marginalised groups, revealing the inadequacies of government responses that often fail to deliver meaningful action. It is quite unfortunate to see how Canada has become a sanctuary for extremist movements, allowing groups like the Khalistani separatists and Tamil Tiger sympathisers to thrive within its borders. This situation raises alarming questions about the nation's complicity in international terrorism. Critics argue that the Canadian government's leniency towards violent nationalists and separatists not only enables these ideologies but also positions Canada as a breeding ground for extremism that threatens global security. The government's failure to confront these dangerous ideologies casts doubt on its commitment to combating terrorism and upholding human rights.

The Khalistani move-

ment, which seeks a separate Sikh state in India, has erupted into violent clashes, giving rise to grave allegations of Canadian collusion in the turmoil. This week, the expulsion of six Indian diplomats over evidence of a "campaign of violence" against dissidents further exposes the hypocrisy of a government that engages in doublespeak while attempting to deflect attention from its shortcomings.

While Canada positions itself as a supporter of human rights and development, its actions frequently tell a different story. For example, Canadian mining companies operating in Africa have been criticised for their exploitative practices and the environmental degradation they cause.

The extraction of resources often comes at the expense of local communities, whose rights and livelihoods are compromised in the name of

profit. This contradiction is starkly illustrated in countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where Canadian companies have faced allegations of human rights abuses and complicity in violence against local populations.

The quest for justice is not just a collective responsibility but a relentless commitment to truth and accountability. Only then can Canada build a future where dignity is not a privilege but a right for every citizen, thus challenging the very essence of what it means to be Canadian? As Gabor Maté, a well-known Canadian physician and author, states, "the question of who we are is deeply embedded in the culture we are raised in and the stories we tell ourselves."

(The writer is a journalist and author; views expressed are personal)

Mamata takes credit for Centre's move on GST on health and life insurance

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, OCT 19

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday claimed credit for the reported move by the Union government on either withdrawal or modification of goods & services tax (GST) on health and life insurance products and policies.

"Our sustained efforts appear to be paying dividends - the Central Government looks like being further pressurised towards finally succumbing to our demands to withdraw/modify the unjust 18 per cent GST on health and life insurance products/policies," Banerjee said in a post on her



official X handle.

In her post, the Chief Minister claimed that she had personally written to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman cautioning how the decision to keep 18 per cent GST on health and medical insurance would deter vul-

nerable individuals from securing or maintaining their insurance coverage.

"Now, the reported rollback move suggested by the Group of Ministers of the GST Council today is significant, though it is not coming out of goodwill. It is coming because of the

relentless pressure from our side.

Our leaders have stood firm against anti-people policies that would harm the common people. Our MPs have been fighting, and our Finance Minister fought very well in the Group of Ministers today," she asserted.

According to Banerjee, if the GST Council finally relents and accepts, it will bring much-needed relief to millions of families across the country.

"We remain committed to putting the people's interests at the forefront of every decision. We, however, anxiously wait to see the final shape and conditions of the eventual decision of the GST Council

and we remain sentinels of people."

On August 2, the Chief Minister wrote to the Union Finance Minister Sitharaman seeking the withdrawal of 18 per cent GST on life insurance and health insurance policies and products. In that letter, she pointed out that the primary objective of life and health insurance is to provide financial security and support during unexpected times such as illness, accidents, and ultimately deaths. "These policies play a crucial role in ensuring that individuals and their families are able to cope with financial hardships during such challenging times," her letter read.

Standards for safe listening must to save young people from hearing loss: Experts

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 19

Over 1 billion young people are at the risk of hearing loss globally due to unsafe listening habits, and it is important for policymakers and regulators to develop global standards not only for device manufacturers but also for users and services, experts have stressed.

At a workshop organised during the 'ITU-WTSA 2024' in the national capital, Nidhi Khare, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, said there should be training for tracking sound exposure, on the lines of tracking other health parameters like calorie intake and footsteps.

"In our culture, there's a festival called 'Mauni



Amavasya', in which one is supposed to keep quiet and fast. Perhaps, relishing the sound of silence. I think that is extremely therapeutic and we must realise that together, we can create a difference for not only India, but for the world at large," said Khare. The joint ITU-WHO workshop on safe listening addressed the urgent global public health crisis of hearing loss, and the dangers posed by unsafe listening practices.

In response to this grow-

ing public health problem, the WHO launched the 'Make Listening Safe' initiative in 2015, with the aim of preventing hearing loss through hearing conservation.

P Payden, Deputy Head, WHO country Office, India, said that the cascading consequences of hearing loss translates into millions facing communication challenges, diminished quality of life, and potential impact on professional development/education.

Music speeds up recovery from surgery, reduces stress levels

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, OCT 19

Listening to music may help patients recover from surgery through a lower heart rate, reduced anxiety levels, less opioid use and lower pain, according to researchers.

A reduction in cortisol levels when listening to music may play a role in easing patients' recovery, according to a meta-analysis presented at the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Clinical Congress 2024 in San Francisco.

"When patients wake up after surgery, sometimes they feel really scared and don't know where they are," said Eldo Frezza, professor of surgery at California Northstate University College of Medicine.

"Music can help ease the transition from the waking up stage to a return



to normalcy and may help reduce stress around that transition."

Dr Frezza and study co-authors noted that unlike some more active therapies such as meditation or Pilates which require considerable concentration or movement, listening to music is a more passive experience and can be incorporated by patients without much cost or effort almost immediately after surgery.

To reach this conclusion, the team analysed existing studies on music and its role in helping people recover from surgery, narrowing a list of 3,736 studies to 35 research papers.

In their analysis, the researchers found that the simple act of listening to music after surgery, whether with headphones or through a speaker, had noticeable effects on patients during their recovery period.

Patients who listened to music had a statistically significant reduction in pain the day after surgery. Across all studies, patient self-reported anxiety levels were reduced by about 2.5 points, or 3 per cent.

Patients who listened to music used less than half of the amount of morphine compared to those who did not listen to music on the first day after surgery, the research noted.

They also experienced a reduced heart rate (around 4.5 fewer beats per minute) compared with patients who did not listen to music.

SESSION TO STRENGTHEN TUBERCULOSIS ELIMINATION GOAL IN HIMACHAL

AGENCIES
SHIMLA, OCT 19

To strengthen the tuberculosis elimination goal in Himachal Pradesh, the state tuberculosis (TB) cell of the National Health Mission, with the support from the Union Against Tuberculosis, on Saturday held a media engagement session here to discuss the roadmap to eliminate the disease and equip media professionals with essential resources for impactful reporting.

The event provided an opportunity to connect with health experts, community health workers, ASHAs, and TB champions. Participants gained valuable insights into TB prevention strategies, control measures, and ongoing interventions at the state and national levels.

All the session speakers highlighted the critical role of strengthening



health systems in the state to realise the goals of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP), by enhancing infrastructure, increasing access to diagnostic tools, and training healthcare workers, and building a robust foundation for TB elimination.

Priyanka Verma, Mission Director, National Health Mission, focused on the importance of

effective communication for health and the need to engage all stakeholders in the mission toward a TB-free Himachal Pradesh.

"As Himachal Pradesh continues to make strides in TB elimination, it is important that we not only showcase our local progress but also compare our achievements to national and global standards. This broader narrative helps us highlight the innovative

approaches taken in the state, such as the multi-sectoral engagement.

"The media plays a pivotal role in this effort by ensuring responsible reporting and disseminating accurate, impactful information to the public. In addition to spreading awareness, the media is instrumental in holding stakeholders accountable and providing the programmatic context needed to inspire collective action," she said.

Ravinder Kumar, State Program Officer (NTEP), highlighted the critical role of various interventions in TB control efforts across the state. "Himachal Pradesh has made great progress in TB elimination, driven by key interventions and the active involvement of chemist associations, self-help groups (SHGs), the youth, medical colleges, and social media influenc-

ers. However, challenges remain in combating myths, reducing stigma, and building community support."

The session underscored the critical role of the media as essential stakeholders in the fight against TB, highlighting how effective media engagement can significantly contribute to TB elimination efforts.

For example, in Kangra, the TB elimination efforts have been bolstered by strong community involvement and proactive media partnerships.

What worked well was the collaboration with local media to raise awareness through proper messaging and reduce stigma.

Engaging the media consistently has been crucial in keeping TB at the forefront of public discourse, ensuring wider participation in screening and treatment programmes.

Cancer patients nearly 5 times more likely to experience bankruptcy: Researchers

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 19

Cancer patients are nearly five times more likely to experience bankruptcy, as financial fallout can follow patients with cancer and their families in the form of lower credit scores and other forms of monetary challenges years after a cancer diagnosis.

For patients with bladder, liver, lung, and colorectal cancers, the impact on credit scores was larger compared with other types of cancers, said researchers at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School in Boston in the US.

"These are the first studies to provide numerical evidence of financial toxicity among cancer survivors. Previous data



on this topic largely relies on subjective survey reviews," said Benjamin C James, chief of general surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and associate professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School.

The first study included 99,175 people who had a cancer diagnosis

from 2010 through 2019 and 188,875 non-cancer patients to serve as a control.

Researchers matched patient registry data with Experian credit bureau data to evaluate objective financial markers of financial toxicity.

Patients with cancer had higher rates in total

debt collections, medical collections, and bankruptcies. Cancer patients are nearly 5 times more likely to experience bankruptcy. The cancer patients also had average credit scores nearly 80 points lower.

The second study used a sample of 7,227 patients with colorectal cancer and identified a number of factors that correlated with lower credit scores.

The study also found that declines in credit scores are larger for people with bladder, liver, lung, and colorectal cancers, and persist for up to 9.5 years after diagnosis.

However, Dr James noted that the researchers did not directly correlate cancer prognosis with financial toxicity, but that some more aggressive cancers actually have less financial toxicity than

cancers with a good prognosis.

"There are certain factors that are associated with worse financial toxicity, including being under the age of 62, identifying as Black or Hispanic, not being married, having an area deprivation index below the median, not owning a home, and having an income below a median of \$52,000 a year," Dr James noted.

The studies followed up on findings from the 2015 North American Thyroid Cancer Survivorship Study, which showed that 50 per cent of thyroid cancer survivors encountered financial toxicity due to their diagnosis.

"Further research is needed, but I think financial security should be a priority in cancer care," said the authors.

Liver tissue from space may transform traditional transplants

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 19

A team of US researchers is pioneering the self-assembly of human liver tissues in low-Earth orbit (LEO) - the area of space below an altitude of around 1,931 kms - which could lead to novel stem cell-derived liver tissues, providing an alternative to traditional liver transplants.

The "out-of-this-world" project has the potential to transform the future of tissue engineering and liver transplantation through innovative research conducted aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Led by Tammy T Chang, a professor of surgery at the University of California, San Francisco, the process could significantly enhance the development

of complex tissues for medical use on Earth.

"Our goal is to develop robust preservation techniques that allow us to bring functional tissues back to Earth, where they can be used for a range of biomedical applications, including disease modeling, drug testing and eventually, therapeutic implantation," Dr Chang said.

The method leverages the unique environment of microgravity to address the limitations of current tissue engineering techniques on Earth. For example, the use of artificial matrices that provide a framework on which cells grow can introduce outside materials and alter cellular function.

"Our findings indicate that microgravity conditions enable the development of liver tissues with better differentiation and functionality than those cultured on Earth," said Dr Chang.

This represents a critical step toward creating viable liver tissue implants that could serve as an alternative or adjunct to traditional liver transplants.

These stem cells are built into liver tissues in microgravity that function like a smaller, simpler liver. Unlike Earth-bound tissue engineering methods that rely on exogenous matrices or culture plates, microgravity allows cells to float freely and organise naturally, resulting in more physiologically accurate tissues.

The research team is also working on advanced cryopreservation techniques to transport engineered tissues from space to Earth safely.

of complex tissues for medical use on Earth.

"Our goal is to develop robust preservation techniques that allow us to bring functional tissues back to Earth, where they can be used for a range of biomedical applications, including disease modeling, drug testing and eventually, therapeutic implantation," Dr Chang said.

The method leverages the unique environment of microgravity to address the limitations of current tissue engineering techniques on Earth. For example, the use of artificial matrices that provide a framework on which cells grow can introduce outside materials and alter cellular function.

"Our findings indicate that microgravity conditions enable the development of liver tissues with better differentiation and functionality than those cultured on Earth," said Dr Chang.

This represents a critical step toward creating viable liver tissue implants that could serve as an alternative or adjunct to traditional liver transplants.

These stem cells are built into liver tissues in microgravity that function like a smaller, simpler liver. Unlike Earth-bound tissue engineering methods that rely on exogenous matrices or culture plates, microgravity allows cells to float freely and organise naturally, resulting in more physiologically accurate tissues.

The research team is also working on advanced cryopreservation techniques to transport engineered tissues from space to Earth safely.

GST on term life insurance premium, senior citizens likely to be exempted

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 19

The Group of Ministers (GoM) on Saturday more or less decided to exempt the goods and services tax (GST) on term life insurance premiums and premiums paid by senior citizens for health cover.

The GST exemption/

reduction on life and health insurance is a long-pending demand of the industry as the move would alleviate the tax burden on both insurers and policyholders.

While most of the panel members of the GoM, led by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary, pitched for "full

exemption" on health and life policy premiums, a few panel members suggested reducing the rate to 5 per cent from the current 18 per cent.

The ministerial panel, tasked to rationalise rates, is scheduled to submit its recommendation to the GST Council by October 31.

Janaushadhi Kendra: Customers praise PM Modi for making medicines accessible and affordable

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, OCT 19

The "Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)" has made significant progress since its launch. The centres established under this scheme provide generic medicines and are benefiting citizens nationwide.

Many customers who IANS spoke to expressed their gratitude to Prime

Minister Narendra Modi for making affordable medicines accessible through these centres.

Vijay, an owner of a Janaushadhi Kendra located in the Borivali area of Mumbai, said that this is the first such store in Mumbai, established in 2016. With eight years of operation, people come from distant and far-flung areas to purchase medicines at this centre.

Sharing details about the centre, he said that there are 30,000 registered patients who come to his store to buy generic medicines.

While a medicine may cost Rs 100 in the market, it is available for just Rs 10 to 20 at the Janaushadhi Kendra.

Apart from the medicine being cheap, the quality is also good.

The availability of

affordable medicines provides significant financial relief to the public, he added.

Vijay further said: "We have opened four Janaushadhi Kendras in Mumbai over the past eight years. These are located in areas like Borivali, Malad, Wadala, and Thane. Most people know these kendras as Modi Medical Stores."

A customer, Aashish

Yadav, said that he has been purchasing medicines from the Janaushadhi Kendra for the past three years.

Previously, he bought branded medicines from private stores costing around Rs 3,000-4,000, but now he finds the same medicines for about Rs 1,500.

The affordability of these medicines is quite significant for him.

Drive transformative change with Artificial Intelligence for Aspirational India's progress: PM Modi

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCT 19

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said while Artificial Intelligence (AI) is viewed as an opportunity globally, it presents both a challenge and an opportunity for India, where it must be balanced with the other AI, or Aspirational India, for transformative change by utilising it to drive progress.

He also stressed the need for government employees to develop innovative thinking and follow a citizen-centric approach, seek help from startups, research agencies, and youths to get new ideas, and for departments to have a system of feedback mechanisms.

Launching the 'Karmayogi Saptah' - National Learning Week at Dr Ambedkar International Centre here, he said that through Mission Karmayogi, the goal is to create



human resources that would become the driving force of the country's development.

He expressed satisfaction at the progress made so far, saying that if all keep working with this passion, no one can stop the country from progressing. He underlined that the new learnings and experiences during the National Learning Week will provide strength and

help in improving working systems which will help us achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Discussing the steps taken to change the mindset of the government over the last ten years, whose impact is being felt by people today, he said that this has become possible due to the efforts of the people working in the government and through the impact of steps like

Mission Karmayogi. The Prime Minister also said that information equality has become a norm due to the impact of the digital revolution and social media. With AI, information processing is also becoming equally easy making citizenry informed and empowering them to keep a tab on all of the activities of the government. So, the civil servants need to keep themselves abreast with the latest technological developments so as to meet the rising standards, wherein Mission Karmayogi can prove to be of help, he said.

Mission Karmayogi.

PM Modi lauded the iGOT platform and said that more than 40 lakh government employees have registered on the platform.

Over 1,400 courses are available and more than 1.5 crore certificates of completion in various courses have been received by the

officers.

Termining Civil Services training Institutions victims of working in silos, he said that the government is trying to increase partnerships and collaborations among them. He urged the training institutions to establish proper channels of communication, to learn from each other, discuss and adopt global best practices and inculcate a whole-of-government approach.

Mission Karmayogi was launched in September 2020 envisioning a future-ready civil service rooted in Indian ethos, with a global perspective. National Learning Week (NLW) will provide fresh impetus towards individual and organisational capacity development for civil servants creating a "One Government" message and aligning everyone with national goals and promoting lifelong learning.

PM Modi in Varanasi tomorrow, to inaugurate eye hospital and launch other projects

AGENCIES

VARANASI, OCT 19

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit his parliamentary constituency, Varanasi, on Sunday inaugurate or lay foundation stones of 23 projects worth Rs 6,611.18 crore.

"My government is committed to making easier the lives of all brothers and sisters in Kashi, the city of Baba Vishwanath, as well as across the country. In this endeavour, around 2 p.m. tomorrow, I will have the fortune to inaugurate the RJ Sankara Eye Hospital as well dedicate several other projects to the people, and lay the foundation of other works," PM Modi said in a post, in Hindi, on X, on the eve of his visit.

The RJ Sankara Eye Hospital, built at a cost of Rs 90 crore, will be inaugurated in the presence of Shankaracharya Swami Vijayendra Saraswati.

During the visit, PM Modi will also lay the foundation for the expansion

of Varanasi Airport and the construction of a new terminal building. Other projects related to health, education, sports, religion, tourism, and housing will also be inaugurated.

Additionally, the Prime Minister is expected to announce a new free food programme initiated by the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust. This scheme, in collaboration with Natyakotam Sanstha, aims to provide food to students from 16 Sanskrit schools and attendants of three hospitals.

The trial for the "Satvik Sanatan Kitchen" was successfully conducted at the Annakshetra in the Godaulia area of the city, benefiting around 3,000 people in its first phase, with plans to expand to 5,000 beneficiaries.

Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust CEO Vishwa Bhushan Mishra said that the Prime Minister is likely to announce this initiative during his visit.

Governor Anandiben

Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and several other senior leaders will join the Prime Minister for the event.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to arrive in Varanasi at around 1 p.m. and will leave for Delhi by 6 p.m.

Upon arrival, PM Modi will be welcomed by the Governor and the Chief Minister Adityanath. Both Deputy Chief Ministers and other top ministers are also expected to be present.

The BJP's Kashi region President Dilip Patel, stated that the Prime Minister will receive a grand welcome with drums and flowers across various locations in the city.

Several hoardings of the Prime Minister were put up across Varanasi on Saturday ahead of his visit.

One poster shows PM Modi with 10 hands, each representing several government schemes. These banners and posters have been put up by BJP Yuva Morcha President Aman Sonkar.

Language row: P. Chidambaram says TN Governor Ravi 'living in fantasy world'

AGENCIES

CHENNAI, OCT 19

Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister P. Chidambaram on Saturday mounted a strong attack on Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi for his comments about the state's language education policy.

Chidambaram, in a post on X, said that Ravi claimed 27 out of 28 states in the country had implemented the three-language policy but the Tamil Nadu Governor was "living in a fantasy world" as there was a discrepancy between his statement and the reality on the ground.

He said that there was a lack of English language education in several Hindi-speaking states and specifically mentioned Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar,



and Chhattisgarh. He noted that in these states, the three-language formula was not functioning effectively, and upon closer examination, it became evident that only a single-language policy was being implemented.

Chidambaram also noted that in many government schools in these states, English is not taught. Even when English classes are conducted, qualified teachers are often not appointed.

He added that he per-

sonally knew several students in these states who were unable to speak or write even a single word in English. He also highlighted that there is an emphasis on teaching languages closely related to Hindi, such as Sanskrit, Punjabi, and Bhojpur, as second languages. Meanwhile, languages like Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Telugu are not adequately covered in 95 per cent of the schools.

On the other hand, the senior Congress leader pointed out that private schools and Central government schools, such as those under the CBSE and the ICSE boards in Tamil Nadu, do teach Hindi. He also mentioned that several students in Tamil Nadu take multiple-level exams conducted by the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha (DBHPS) every year.

There is a fight between Constitution and Manusmriti in the country: Rahul Gandhi

AGENCIES

RANCHI, OCT 19

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has described Manusmriti as fundamentally anti-constitutional. Speaking at the 'Samvidhan Samman Sammelan' here on Saturday, he remarked that the ideological conflict between the Constitution and Manusmriti has persisted for generations.

Rahul Gandhi emphasised that although India's Constitution was formally written in 1949-1950, its underlying philosophy is thousands of years old, shaped by visionaries like Lord Buddha, Guru Nanak, Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Birsa Munda, Narayana Guru, and Basavanna (philosopher and poet). "Without the influence of

these great leaders, the Constitution might not have come into existence. Today, however, that progressive thinking is under siege," he said, adding that safeguarding the Constitution is the nation's most urgent task.

Criticising the Central government, Rahul Gandhi accused not only Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, but also others of systematically weakening the Constitution. "Their goal," he warned, "is to undermine and destroy it, but we will not let that happen."

Reiterating the Congress party's commitment to a caste census, the Congress MP stated that it is crucial to address growing inequality, as 1 per cent of the population controls the rights of 90 per cent.



He claimed that the history of these marginalised communities is being erased. He once again vowed that the caste census would be conducted at any cost, along with lifting the 50 per cent cap on reservations.

Rahul Gandhi expressed concern about the lack of representation of tribal and backward communities in India's education

system. Reflecting on his own schooling in India, he pointed out that there are hardly any chapters dedicated to the history, culture, or contributions of tribals, Dalits, and backward classes.

"Dalits are only mentioned in one line about untouchability," he said, and the contributions of OBCs, farmers, and labourers are largely absent from the curriculum.

He also criticised the country's bureaucratic structure for its exclusionary practices, noting that Dalits, tribals, and backward classes are grossly underrepresented in major ministries. He explained that if Rs 100 is allocated for spending, Dalit officers control only Re 1, and tribal officers even less.

Gandhi further high-

lighted the lack of representation of these communities in sectors like media, corporate leadership, judiciary, and entertainment, accusing the government of deliberately keeping them away from their rightful share of power and opportunities.

Targeting the BJP, he said they refer to tribals as "Vanvasis" (forest dwellers), which he believes is an attempt to marginalize them.

"Tribals were the original inhabitants of this land," he asserted, adding, "they have the first right to its resources."

He accused the BJP of excluding President Droupadi Murmu from key national events, such as the inauguration of Parliament and the Ram temple, due to her tribal background.

Must stop 'forex drain' due to students going abroad: Dhankhar

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCT 19

Coining a new term "forex drain", Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said a hole of \$6 billion has been drilled into the country's foreign exchange reserves by about 13 lakh students who took admission in institutions abroad in 2024.

Cautioning students against herd mentality and craze to study abroad, the Vice President said quite like "brain drain" the current trend of "forex drain" needs to be addressed.

"Imagine the improvement that could have been brought about in our education system had this money been spent on country's educational institutions," said the Vice President at the Silver Jubilee Celebration of Sob-



hasaria Group of Institutions at Sikar, Rajasthan. Jagdeep Dhankhar urged educational institutes to educate students about the not-so-rosy situation abroad and the ranking of colleges that they are taking admission to.

"I call upon educational institutions and industry leaders to hold seminars and make our young boys and girls aware of the avenues in the country where they can aspire to serve the nation and themselves," he said.

The Vice President also called upon resourceful Indians to contribute to the education sector and build institutions in tier-2 and tier-3 cities and rural areas. "This will be a big transition for the country," he said. Vice President Dhankhar also encouraged teachers for leveraging technology to overcome physical constraints and provide good quality education.

"Our teachers are talented, but there are physical constraints. They can't be everywhere or anywhere. We must use technology in the field of education. That will give our students great leverage to get quality education," he said, according to a statement issued here.

It is education that is the most impactful transformative mechanism to bring about equality, cut

into inequity, and be a great societal leveler, he said.

"We are living in times of disruptive technology. Young minds have to grapple with them artificial intelligence, internet of things, blockchain, and machine learning. There is a change every day, and this change is a challenge. This change has to be converted into opportunities, and that can be done only through education," he said.

Highlighting the country's resolve to become developed by 2047, Vice President Dhankhar said the youth have to show faith in the nation.

"It is the obligation of our youth to neutralise anti-national forces which give priority to political, personal or monetary benefits over nation," he said.

Decision on stubble burning to be based on SC order: Haryana minister Vij

AGENCIES

CHANDIGARH, OCT 19

Slamming Congress leader and former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Hooda over his remark that stubble burning is not the only reason behind air pollution, state Cabinet Minister Anil Vij said on Saturday "stubble burning case is being heard in the Supreme Court and the state decision will be taken based on its order". Vij was reacting to Hooda's statement that the government "is intimidating farmers over stubble burning and Congress leader Randeep Surjewala's remark that if the government does not retract this decision, the Congress will protest".

The apex court on

Wednesday summoned the Chief Secretaries of Punjab and Haryana after expressing disapproval over the lack of proper legal action against stubble burning in the state. Reacting to Surjewala's call for protests, Vij said, "Protest for the next five years because the public has already rejected you. When you needed the people, they did not stand with you. Despite your claims of anti-incumbency, the father-son (Bhupinder and Deepender Hooda) duo used to go to sleep imagining themselves as Chief Ministers, but the people rejected them."

Regarding Congress leader Capt Ajay Yadav resigning from all his positions after the poll debacle, Vij told the media in

Ambala, "Looking at the state of Congress, it seems their shop is about to shut down, and perhaps some others might follow Captain's lead." He said now the BJP government has been formed, and the first thing "we will do is inaugurate an escalator on Monday that has been installed at the Civil Hospital in Ambala Cantonment". Vij said as the elections ended, he began inspecting ongoing development projects and instructed officers to complete the tasks swiftly.

Commenting on the Congress' infighting over the chief minister's position earlier and now over the position of Leader of the Opposition, Vij said, "There's nothing, but they're still fighting."

Amid 'good neighbourliness' barb, India to continue grant-in-aid for Dalai Lama's panel till 2025-26

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCT 19

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's "missing good neighbourliness" nudge to China during his address at the SCO Summit in Islamabad seems to be in consonance with New Delhi's firm diplomacy that is also reflected in the Indian government's decision to continue providing a

grant-in-aid to Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama's CTCR till 2025-26.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has made provision for a Rs 40-crore grant-in-aid for the Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC) for a five-year period ending 2025-26. As per a 2019 census by the CTCR, the population of Tibetan refugees in India was 73,404.

China objects to India's



continued support for the Dalai Lama as it views him as a political exile rather

than a purely religious figure, accusing him of engaging in anti-China sepa-

ratist activities.

Despite China's uneasiness, the Government of India claims the Dalai Lama is a revered religious leader and is deeply respected by the people of India. "His Holiness is accorded due courtesies and freedom to conduct his religious and spiritual activities," according to an official MEA brief.

The MHA's grant-in-aid for the Dalai Lama's CTCR

is used for expenses on administrative and social welfare activities of 36 Tibetan Settlement offices located in different states. An amount of Rs 56 crore was released for the CTCR during FY 2015-16 to 2021-22. Tibetan refugees began pouring into India in the wake of the flight of the Dalai Lama in the year 1959 from Tibet. The Indian government decided to give

them asylum as well as assistance towards a temporary settlement.

The majority of these refugees have settled themselves, either through self-employment or with the government's assistance under agricultural and handicrafts schemes in different states of the country.

A major concentration of Tibetan refugees is in Karnataka (21,324), Him-

achal Pradesh (14,952), Arunachal Pradesh (4,780), Uttarakhand (4,829), West Bengal (3,076), and UT of Ladakh (6,989).

In order to bring about uniformity with respect to extending various facilities by the Central Government and State Governments to the Tibetan refugees settled in different parts of the country, the MHA has issued the Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy, 2014.

UN takes Pakistan to cleaners on human rights violations, religious intolerance and media curbs

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD, OCT 19

A detailed report by the United Nations Human Rights Committee has raised serious concerns over the spread of religious intolerance, blasphemy, forced kidnappings and conversion of Hindu and Christian minority girls, curbs on media and freedom of expression in Pakistan.

It also questioned Islamabad's ongoing curbs, outages and surveillance by government institutions and authorities on social media, internet, social media apps, internet surveillance to tactically devise and manage the general elections in the country.

The concerns were raised during the second day of the review of human rights conditions in Pakistan by the UN's International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) committee.

During the review, serious questions were raised

by the UN on the situation of freedom of expression, media freedom, religious intolerance and freedom of expression in Pakistan.

"According to information received, the legislative framework at the federal and provincial levels imposes unnecessary barriers to exercise this right. We have seen in many areas the NGOs have their finances and plans inspected and all this is being used to interfere in the work of some NGOs. There are many reports that national as well as international NGOs are subjected to constant investigation and harassment on the part of security operators and government officers," stated the UN Committee.

"University students have to sign a sworn declaration where they reject any political activity on the basis of prerequisite for admission to a university. Similarly, Pashtun and Baloch students are subjected to arbitrary disciplinary hearings and suspensions given their politi-



cal activity," added the UN Committee on Human Rights chair.

The UN Committee also reiterated its serious concerns over the issue of forced conversions and kidnapping by miscreants in Pakistan targeting Hindu and Christian girls. The committee expressed its astonishment over the fast-increasing numbers of cases of Hindu and Christian girls being abducted and later on forced to convert to Islam by abductors or their relatives.

"Sometimes these cases don't even reach courts and when they do, the girls are not sent back to their families but to their

abductors or sent to shelter most of them don't have necessary condition to protect these victims while some of these girls are also exposed to sexual violence," stated the committee, rejecting the state party's contention that the number of cases of forced abduction and conversion of Hindu and Christian girls in Pakistan stands at just 74.

Other than taking Pakistan to the cleaners on forced conversions, the UN committee also raised serious questions over the government's inability to tackle the dangerously-increasing numbers of attacks and threats on

Shia Muslims, Christians, Ahmadis, Hindus and Sikhs. This also includes cases of accusations of blasphemy, targeted killings, lynching, mob violence, forced conversions and desecration of places of worship.

"Society has become increasingly intolerant of religious diversity. The minorities are facing a constant threat to persecution and discrimination amid the rise of religious radicalism," the UN committee noted.

The UN committee has also called out Pakistan for using its authority and use of the Exit Control List (ECL) to restrict freedom of movement to suppress dissent. Rights defenders like Mama Qadeer, Mahrang Baloch and others had faced travel restrictions without any clear or legal grounds.

The committee also expressed concerns over passport application to obtain declaring their religion, especially Ahmadi applicants required to identify as non-Muslims

to obtain passports.

The committee also stressed that the defamation law in Pakistan needs a careful implementation so that it doesn't repress the freedom of expression.

"Defamation remains a criminal offence in the PPC and the Prevention of Electronic Crime Act with penalty of imprisonment and fines. Punjab Defamation Bill 2024 passed without stakeholders consultations raises concerns as it emphasises prosecuting public officials and allows fines without proof of actual damage which can lead to repression or intimidation".

While the report raised questions over important points, it also called out the Pakistan government and its federal agencies, holding them to task over issues including child rights and anti-rape laws, curbs on media and self-censorship, internet outages and online surveillance and bonded labour, calling for transparency and provision of rights to the masses.

US-British coalition launches airstrikes on Yemen's Hodeidah: Reports



AGENCIES

SANAA, OCT 19

Warplanes of the US-UK coalition launched two airstrikes on Yemen's port city of Hodeidah, the Houthi-run media reported.

The strikes targeted an area in the district of Ras Issa, northwest of the city, said the al-Masirah TV, without providing further details. Residents of Hodeidah told Xinhua that they heard loud explosions an hour before midnight.

The US-UK coalition has not commented on the incidents, and there have been no reports about casualties yet, Xinhua news agency reported, quoting al-Masirah TV.

On Thursday, the US Central Command said its

forces launched airstrikes on Houthi-controlled underground weapons storage in the capital Sanaa and the northern port city of Saada. The Houthi group vowed retaliation after the attacks.

The Houthis have been controlling Hodeidah and several other northern cities since late 2014 after the civil war broke out in Yemen, forcing the internationally recognised Yemeni government out of the capital Sanaa.

Since November last year, the Houthi group has been launching rocket and drone attacks targeting what it described as "Israeli-linked" ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden to show solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

G7 Defence Ministers meet in Italy amid concerning situation in Middle East

AGENCIES

NAPOLI, OCT 19

For the first time in the history of the Group of Seven (G7), a meeting of defence ministers kicked off in Naples on Saturday, hosted by Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto.

The agenda of the meeting provides for discussing the main global conflicts and areas of instability, in order to define common political objectives and share possible lines of action.

"The priorities indicated by the Italian Presidency of the G7 are characterized by deep defence and security implications, which are assuming ever-greater relevance at this especially sensitive time in history," the Italian G7 Presidency reflected in a statement.

The meeting, being attended by the US



Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, includes a session dedicated to Russia-Ukraine war "an opportunity to reiterate and confirm the unity of the broad international support front for Kyiv", with the firm aim to achieve fair, long-lasting peace.

Italy maintains that the political weight of the G7 could allow identifying initiatives to overcome the logic of bipolar confrontation and engage in a new peace conference with countries that are not members of the alliances,

including from the BRICS and Global South.

A session dedicated to defence, aimed to promote the role of the G7 as an effective consultation forum as well as to identify a shared approach to political and economic themes, is also scheduled.

"The concerning situation in the Middle East will also be discussed within the framework of our common commitment to promote de-escalation, achieve a ceasefire in Gaza and support a political process leading to a Two-

States solution. Moreover, the whole regional security scenario will be discussed to identify possible lines of actions aimed to prevent and contain growing destabilisation dynamics," the statement added.

It mentioned that, while recognising that Africa offers great potential for establishing partnerships and shared objectives, the G7 defence ministers will also discuss the "complex continental balance" which requires constant focus on drafting a shared development agenda.

The meeting will confirm G7 members' commitment to support African countries along their path toward strengthening democratic and security governance by proposing concrete actions to counter the root causes of instability factors.

82 PAKISTANI PILGRIMS ARRIVE VIA ATTARI TO ATTEND ANNUAL URS

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD, OCT 19

The Indian High Commission in Islamabad has issued visas to at least 82 Pakistani pilgrims, allowing them to travel to India via Wagah-Attari border for the five-day annual Urs celebrations of Khwaja Nizamuddin Auliya.

The pilgrims crossed over into India from the Wagah border on Saturday as they started their journey to pay respects during the Urs.

Acquiring and securing visas for the annual Urs of Khwaja Nizamuddin Auliya has been a difficult process in the past for Pakistani pilgrims considering the hostile ties between the two neighbours since the Pulwama attack in 2019.

However, this year, all 82 pilgrims from Pakistan,



who had applied for the visa, were asked to assemble in Lahore two days before their departure to facilitate the visa process.

The positive development is being seen as a step in the right direction with hopes of improved bilateral relations in the coming times.

The Urs of Khwaja

Nizamuddin Auliya is an important religious event that attracts pilgrims from various backgrounds. It is believed that issuing visas to pilgrims by India may also serve as a people-to-people bridge between the two countries, fostering goodwill and dialogue.

Many believe that the provision of visas to all pilgrims from Pakistan by

the Indian High Commission has happened due to the positive interaction between India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar and Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting of Council of Heads of Government, held in Islamabad, earlier this week.

With this, the hopes of seeing an Indian cricket team visiting Pakistan for the ICC Champions Trophy have also been revived.

Team India is expected to visit Pakistan in February 2025 for the multi-nation event. However, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is yet to formally notify the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) about the team's participation.

BRICS nations working on their own version of Swift: President Putin ahead of summit

AGENCIES

MOSCOW, OCT 19

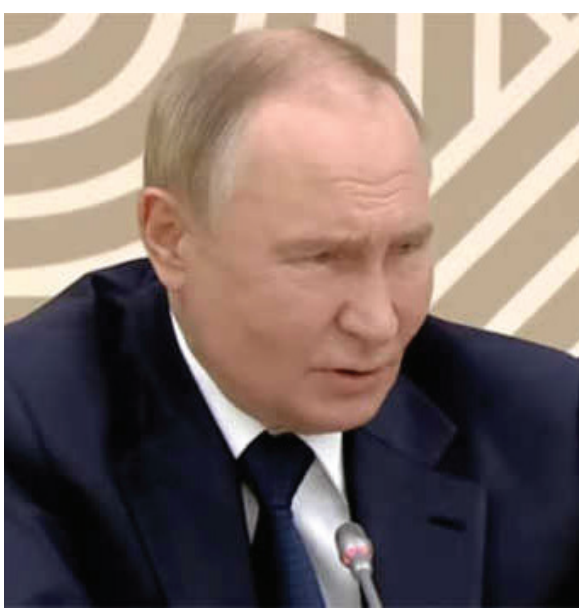
Ahead of the 16th BRICS Summit that opens in the Russian city of Kazan, President Vladimir Putin has said that BRICS countries are working on their own version of Swift for international financial transaction. He also said that the average GDP growth rate of BRICS nations by the end of 2024 is projected at 4%, higher than the global average of 3.2%.

In a meeting with the media ahead of the October 22-24 summit, President Putin said that the BRICS bloc plays a significant role in the global economy, and this role is set to grow further.

He said that BRICS countries are drivers of economic growth, and it is in BRICS that the main global GDP growth will be generated in the coming years, as reported by Sputnik.

He said the economic growth of BRICS countries will depend less and less on external influence.

President Putin said the BRICS New Development



Bank is an alternative to Western development mechanisms, adding that Russia will expand the capabilities of the New Development Bank, and it should become the main investor in BRICS and the Global South.

Putin noted the importance of close economic partnership between BRICS countries, saying joint work brings tangible results.

On the issue of a uni-

fied BRICS currency, he said that it would require thorough economic integration among the BRICS nations.

"Apart from high level of integration among BRICS members, the introduction of a single BRICS currency would involve comparable monetary quality and volume," Putin said during his meeting with media heads from BRICS countries.

"Otherwise, we will face

even bigger issues than those that occurred in the EU," the Russian president stressed.

He recalled that when a single currency was introduced among EU countries, their economies were neither comparable nor equal.

He also said that BRICS was never meant to be against anyone.

"BRICS doesn't counterpose itself to anyone, it's a group of nations that work together and share values," President Putin said to question. "BRICS is not an anti-Western group, it's just a non-Western group," the Russian president summarized, quoting Indian FM Jai Shankar.

On the de-dollarization question, he said: "We're taking individual steps, one after another. As regards finance, we did not drop the dollar. The dollar is the universal currency. But it wasn't us - we were banned and barred from [using] it. And now 95% of all the external trade of Russia is denominated in national currencies. They did it themselves with their

own hands. They thought we would collapse."

He also said that Russia will prevail in the Ukraine conflict.

The Russian army has become one of the most combat effective and high-tech armies in the world, President Putin emphasized.

Regarding the Middle East, he said the Middle East Quartet format that included Russia, the US, the UN and the EU was carrying out tangible work in mediating the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

"I do not intend to accuse the United States in every aspect here, but unfortunately it was a wrong thing to do to disband the four [the Quartet]," he pointed out.

Among the world leaders expected at the summit are, Indian PM Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazil President Lula da Silva, South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, besides several others.

Defence Secretary Austin reaffirms US, NATO's long-term commitment to Ukraine

AGENCIES

BRUSSELS, OCT 19

United States Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin has reaffirmed the US and NATO's long-term commitment to a free and sovereign Ukraine.

"Like countries of goodwill around the world, our NATO allies continue to stand up for Ukraine's sovereignty and self-defence," Austin said while speaking at a press conference in Brussels on Friday, one day after a defence ministerial meeting that addressed Ukraine's ongoing conflict with Russia.

"And the United States and our allies and partners are determined to stand by Ukraine for the long haul, and we'll stand by one another," he added.

Two simultaneous objectives are key to providing Ukraine with the assistance it needs to counter Russian aggression, Austin said, with the first being focused on the present.

"We're focused on providing Ukraine what it needs to be successful on (the) battlefield today, as it tries to defend its sover-



eign territory," Austin said.

"It's been very successful at that, and I would remind everybody that Ukraine has taken on the largest military in Europe; and for two and a half years, it has successfully defended its territory," Austin continued, adding that Ukraine's capital city of Kyiv still stands, and that Russian President Vladimir Putin has "yet to achieve any of his strategic objectives".

Beyond being focused on the present, Austin said the second objective of supporting Ukraine is making sure to supply the country with the resources necessary to both deter and defend against future aggression.

As an example of this, Austin spoke about several capability coalitions that have been established in support of Ukraine. He stated that those coalitions include an air force coalition that has brought F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine; an artillery coalition that has brought long-term artillery and ammunition support to the country; an information technology coalition that helps make sure Ukraine has what it needs to function and be effective in the information domain, and others. "These coalitions are designed to ensure that Ukraine has what it needs to deter aggression and defend itself going forward," Austin said.

Long-term outlook for Indian stock market remains robust amid geopolitical risks

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, OCT 19

Despite a sustained selling pressure from the foreign institutional investors (FIIs) amid geo-political tensions this week, the long-term outlook for the domestic market remains robust with a stability in growth and a pickup in capex, experts said on Saturday.

Apart from heavy FII selling, muted Q2 earnings expectations and elevated valuations also acted as a headwind for the market this week. The market watchers said they expect the market to be range-bound in the short term with mixed bias, while investors should turn more sector- and stock-specific in such a time.

Focus will be on large caps and growth areas like staples, agriculture, FMCG, consumption,



power, digital, and infra. Buy-on dips will be the strategy on a short- to medium-term basis.

According to Rajesh Bhosale, equity technical analyst, Angel One, the market remains in a consolidation phase, with little change in chart structure.

"While prices tested the lower end of the trading range and closed near it, a break below 24,900 could open doors for further weakness, potentially

power, digital, and infra. Buy-on dips will be the strategy on a short- to medium-term basis. On the upside, resistance is seen around 25,100 followed by the 25,250 level; only a move beyond this range might spark some bullish momentum on the hourly charts," he explained.

On Friday, the Indian stock market bucked the negative trend, as both the Sensex and Nifty indices jumped upwards.

The Sensex closed at 81,224.75 after gaining 218.14 points, or 0.27 per

cent, at the end of trading. At the same time, the NSE Nifty closed at 24,854.05 after gaining 104.20 points or 0.42 per cent.

The Nifty Midcap 100 index closed in green at 58,649.15 after gaining 183.20 points or 0.31 per cent at the end of trading. The Nifty Smallcap 100 index closed at 19,077.80 after gaining 11.85 points or 0.06 per cent.

For next week, traders are advised to avoid aggressive bets and be selective.

"It's also crucial to monitor global factors closely, as they could influence market direction ahead of the weekly expiry," they added.

Geopolitical tensions and uncertainty ahead of the US presidential election paved the way for haven asset gold to climb a new record high.

Gold prices contin-

ued their strong upward momentum, with a sharp rise of Rs 500 in MCX, taking the price to Rs 77,600, supported by Comex gold surging above \$2,710.

This robust strength is largely driven by the expectation of ongoing interest rate cuts in the US, with further reductions anticipated in the near future, the experts noted.

The rupee remained flat at 84.05 as the dollar index also held steady around \$103.50.

"Despite the broader strength in the dollar, the rupee has managed to stay stable for the time being. Although crude weakness provides some support, the heavy fund outflows are expected to push the rupee further down towards the 84.15-84.25 range in the coming days," said Jateen Trivedi from LKP Securities.

HDFC Bank to sell up to Rs 10,000 cr shares via OFS in HDB Financial's upcoming IPO

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, OCT 19

Leading private lender HDFC Bank on Saturday announced to sell equity shares worth Rs 10,000 crore via an offer for sale (OFS) in the upcoming initial public offering (IPO) of its subsidiary HDB Financial Services Ltd.

The size of the IPO of HDB Financial Services Ltd (HDBFS) will be Rs 12,500 crore, including a fresh issue of Rs 2,500 crore, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

"The Board of Directors of the bank approved the offer for sale (OFS) of such number of equity shares of face value of Rs 10 each of HDBFS aggregating up to Rs 10,000 crore held by the Bank in the proposed IPO, subject to applicable law, market



conditions, receipt of necessary approvals/ regulatory clearances and other considerations," said HDFC Bank. Accordingly, "the IPO will be for such number of equity shares of face value of Rs 10 each of HDBFS aggregating up to Rs 12,500 crore comprising of a fresh issue of such number of equity shares of face value of Rs 10 each of HDBFS aggregating up to Rs 2,500 crore and an OFS of such number of equity shares of face value of Rs

10 each of HDBFS aggregating up to Rs 10,000 crore," the bank informed.

The price and other details of the proposed IPO will be determined in due course by the competent body.

The public debut of HDB Financial Services is expected by the end of the current financial year. Post-IPO, HDB Financial Services will remain a subsidiary of HDFC Bank, complying with relevant regulations.

Tech Mahindra reports 153 pc PAT growth at Rs 1,250 crore in Q2

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, OCT 19

IT and digital solutions provider Tech Mahindra on Saturday reported consolidated profit after tax (PAT) at Rs 1,250 crore in the quarter ended September 30, up 153.1 per cent year-on-year and 46.8 per cent (on-quarter). The company posted a revenue of Rs 13,313 crore in the second quarter this fiscal (FY25), up 2.4 per cent on-quarter and 3.5 per cent YoY.

Tech Mahindra reported total headcount at the end of the quarter at 154,273, up 6,653 on-quarter and 3,669 YoY.

Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the quarter was Rs 6,566 crore and the company declared interim dividend at Rs 15 per share.

"We continue to prog-



ress on our strategic improvement efforts even as the overall IT services industry has remained soft. We have focused on strengthening client relationships and expanding the partner ecosystem while maintaining a sharp focus on operational excellence through project Fortius, which has resulted in an expansion of margins for the third

sequential quarter," said Mohit Joshi, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Tech Mahindra. During the quarter, Tech Mahindra announced a strategic partnership to boost generative AI (GenAI) adoption and lead digital transformation for various entities of Mahindra & Mahindra.

Rohit Anand, Chief

Financial Officer, Tech Mahindra, said they saw consistent performance around increasing deal wins, revenue growth, cost optimisation and steady free cashflow generation as "we continue our journey towards FY27 stated targets".

"In line with our capital allocation policy, the board has declared an interim dividend of Rs 15 per share," he said.

Tech Mahindra has announced the launch of "TechM VerifAI", a comprehensive solution for validating and verifying the outcomes of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and GenAI projects. Through this solution, the IT major will help enterprises validate the end-to-end lifecycle of AI-based projects, thereby, enabling them to scale their AI initiatives speedily.

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 19

India's primary market is on a remarkable growth trajectory, fuelled by a wave of investor interest and a surge in initial public offering (IPO) activity, experts said on Saturday.

The month of September was quite busy, with 15 draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filings submitted on just one day – the final day of last month – making it one of the most active periods for IPOs in over 14 years.

"So far in 2024, we've seen 63 initial public offerings, most of which have performed well after listing. Despite the challenges of a volatile market and global uncertainties, investor confidence in these offerings remains strong," said an IPO commentary from Pantomath Capital

India's primary market on remarkable growth trajectory fuelled by IPO surge

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 19

India's primary market is on a remarkable growth trajectory, fuelled by a wave of investor interest and a surge in initial public offering (IPO) activity, experts said on Saturday.

The month of September was quite busy, with 15 draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filings submitted on just one day – the final day of last month – making it one of the most active periods for IPOs in over 14 years.

"So far in 2024, we've seen 63 initial public offerings, most of which have performed well after listing. Despite the challenges of a volatile market and global uncertainties, investor confidence in these offerings remains strong," said an IPO commentary from Pantomath Capital



tutional bidders (QIBs) was booked 6.97 times, while the reservation for employees was subscribed 1.74 times.

This IPO is a pure offer for sale (OFS). It is the first offer from an automaker to list in India in over two decades. Due to being OFS, the entire proceeds will go to the promoter. Ahead of the public issue, Hyundai Motor India raised Rs 3,315 crore from anchor investors. It allotted 4.24 crore shares at Rs 1,960 apiece to 225 anchor investors, according to a company statement.

The IPO was open for bidding between October 15 and October 17. The company offered its shares in the fixed price band of Rs 1,865-1,960 per share with a lot size of 7 shares. The car maker raised about Rs 27,856 crore via its primary offering.

WTSA-2024: India leads standards development process at global level

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 19

Leading the standards development process at global level, India saw its candidates being elected in leadership positions in all 10 study groups of the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Standardisation sector (ITU-T), it was announced on Saturday.

While India retained Chair position in one group, it secured Vice-Chair positions in all other nine study groups and the SCV Committee, thereby increasing its leadership positions in ITU-T from seven in WTSA-2022 to 11 positions in WTSA-2024, said the Ministry of Communications.

Study groups are technical grouping of experts



responsible for developing international standards for telecommunications technologies.

The International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024 is currently being organised in New Delhi.

It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi on October 15 and will continue till October 24.

It is for the first time that WTSA is being conducted in the Asia-Pacific region and it would set the direction of standardisation activities ITU-T and its work for the next four years (2024-2028).

During the WTSA-24, participating countries

elected leadership positions of the various study groups.

India has significantly strengthened its position in the global telecommunication landscape, securing key leadership roles in all the ITU-T study groups.

The ongoing discussions at WTSA focus on promoting standardization activities on emerging

technologies and developing new ITU-T resolutions on topics such as Digital Public Infrastructure, Artificial Intelligence, post-quantum cryptography, Metaverse, Over-the-top (OTT) services and Sustainable Digital transformation.

These topics would be pivotal in shaping the future of technology and ensuring a connected, secure, and inclusive digital world.

"The existing ITU-T resolutions are also being updated. Once the roadmap is set during the WTSA-24, the standardisation activities would be taken up by the various ITU-T study groups in the form of development of Standards and Technical reports," said the ministry.

Musk's SpaceX wins \$733 million launch contract from US Space Force

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, OCT 19

Elon Musk-run SpaceX has won a \$733 million, eight-launch contract from the US Space Force. The US Space Force's Space Systems Command issued Launch Service Task Orders (LSTOs) totalling \$733,566,001 to SpaceX under the "National Security Space Launch Phase 3 Lane 1."

"In this era of Great Power Competition, it is imperative to not leave capability on the ground," said Brigadier Gen Kristin Panzenhagen, programme executive officer for Assured Access to Space.

"The Phase 3 Lane 1 construct allows us to execute launch services more quickly for the more risk-

tolerant payloads, putting more capabilities on orbit faster in order to support national security," he said in a statement.

The Space Force's award to SpaceX includes seven launches for the Space Development Agency and one for the National Reconnaissance Office, to occur no earlier than 2026.

"We are excited to kick off our innovative NSSL Phase 3 Lane 1 effort with two task orders that support critical NRO and SDA missions," said Lt Col Douglas Downs, SSC's materiel leader for Space Launch Procurement.

"Industry stepped up to the plate and delivered on this competition. Our innovative dual-lane strategy is

enabling a streamlined process from mission acquisition to launch, getting our assets on orbit for our warfighters' benefit more quickly. Plus, with the ability to on-ramp new providers and systems annually, we expect to see increasing competition and diversity," Downs mentioned.

The Phase 3 Lane 1 award period is from fiscal year 2025 to fiscal year 2029, with the potential for a five-year extension.

Space Systems Command is the US Space Force's field command responsible for acquiring and delivering resilient war fighting capabilities to protect the nation's strategic advantage in, from, and to space.

GoM proposes to raise GST on luxury shoes, watches, aims revenue boost by Rs 22,000 cr

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 19

In a significant development, the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Saturday agreed upon some Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate revisions that are likely to bring in an additional Rs 22,000 crore revenue.

The GoM, headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary,

suggested raising GST rates on several luxury items, including high-end wristwatches and shoes.

The GoM proposed to increase the GST rate on wristwatches priced above Rs 25,000 from 18 per cent to 28 per cent. Also, shoes costing over Rs 15,000 will also see a tax hike from 18 per cent to 28 per cent, as per the GoM proposal.

The GoM members also decided to lower tax rates on 20-litre packaged drinking water bottles and bicycles to 5 per cent from 18 per cent. GST on exercise notebooks can be reduced to 5 per cent from 12 per cent, the members proposed.

The GST on bicycles priced below Rs 10,000 should be reduced from 12 per cent to 5 per cent.

Rural demand, festive push drive India smartphone market growth in July-Sep

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 19

Driven by rural demand ahead of the festive season, the Indian smartphone market grew 9 per cent in the July-September period, shipping 47.1 million units, according to a new report.

Vendors cleared inventory through early monsoon sales across online and offline channels to gear up for the festive season, according to market research firm Canalys.

According to senior analyst Sanyam Chaurasia, top brands in the market are expanding their portfolio in the mid-high range, in anticipation of clearing inventory during festive sales.

"Meanwhile, brands outside the top five experienced another strong quarter. Apple drove significant volumes with the iPhone 15, with stronger demand coming from smaller cities, ahead of its latest launch," he mentioned.



Other brands, such as Motorola, Google and Nothing, continue to drive volumes owing to strong pull factors from the unique design language, clean user interface and channel expansion strategies. Vivo claimed the pole

position for the first time amid an aggressive push across channels, capturing a 19 per cent market share and shipping 9.1 million units. Xiaomi came second, shipping 7.8 million units, driven by its budget 5G lineup, while Samsung came in third with 7.5 million units. OPPO (excluding OnePlus) and realme completed the top five with 6.3 million and 5.3 million units shipped, respectively, according to the report.

According to the report,

both replacement and upgrade buyers leaned toward higher-priced models due to expanded mid-to-high-end offerings, competitive trade-in deals, and accessible financing options. "However, entry-level demand was weak as rising prices forced consumers to delay purchases until after Diwali. Brands are reliant on offline sales before the Diwali season and will remain cautious about year-end inventory levels," said Chaurasia.

Indian Racing Festival: John Lancaster gives Chennai Turbo Riders fourth win on Day 1

AGENCIES
COIMBATORE, OCT 19

Chennai Turbo Riders continued their relentless assault on the championship by clinching their fourth win of the season through veteran Britisher Jon Lancaster as the Round 4 of the Indian Racing League got off to a thrilling start at the Kari Motor Speedway, here on Saturday.

The 35-year-old Lancaster produced moments of magic to hold off pole-sitter and former Formula 1 test driver Neel Jani of Hyderabad Blackbirds, returning to the Indian Racing League championship after missing the previous two rounds, in a tight finish. In P3 behind the two veterans was India's Sohil Shah of Goa Aces JA Races.

In a race that kept spectators on their toes, Jani,

the 40-year-old from Switzerland, starting from pole position, opened a near five-second gap over Lancaster while 23-year-old Bengalurean Shah made places with some super aggressive moves to tuck himself in P3.

Midway through the race, Jani slowed down considerably after getting stuck in a gear and Lancaster moved into the lead and quickly pulled an eight-second lead at one stage. However, Jani found his second win and swiftly caught up with the 35-year-old Lancaster but could not pass him with the Britisher displaying amazing skills to keep his P1 spot in which he finished. Jani had to be content with second place ahead of Shah.

Meanwhile, in the Formula 4 Indian Open, South African Aqil Alibhai of Hyderabad Blackbirds

notched his third win of



the season with a near-flawless drive starting from P2 on the grid. With a daring move at Turn-1 on the very first lap, Alibhai went past pole-sitter Ruhaan Alva of Shrachi Rarh Royal Bengal Tigers and never looked back for a deserving win which saw him consolidate his position at the head of the leaderboard.

While Alibhai disappeared into the distance, there were furious battles

up and down the grid on a tight and tricky 2.2 km circuit that presented only a couple of overtaking opportunities. Alva, the teenager from Bengaluru, just about held on to his P2 after coming under pressure from Shillong's Jaden Pariat of Bangalore Speedsters as the duo completed the podium behind Alibhai who also picked up a bonus point for the best lap of the race.

The Safety Car was

deployed twice, and it left the drivers to do a one-lap sprint at the end of the 25-minute race duration.

Veteran Diljith TS (Dark Don Racing) from Thrissur made the best of a gift from leader Tijil Rao (Dark Don Racing) to win the JK-LGB Formula 4 race while Dhruv Goswami (MSPORT) came in second.

Tijil, who was comfortably ahead, ran wide while negotiating a backmarker in the closing stages of the race and it allowed Diljith the space to take the lead with Dhruv in tow. Tijil recovered to come in third.

Results (Provisional):

Indian Racing League (Race-1, Driver-A) 25 mins+1 lap: 1. Jon Lancaster (UK, Chennai Turbo Riders) (26mins, 54.251secs); 2. Neel Jani (Switzerland, Black Birds Hyderabad) (26:54.587); 3. Sohil Shah

(India, Goa Aces JA Racing) (26:54.965).

Formula 4 Indian Open (Race-1, 25mins+1 lap): 1. Aqil Alibhai (South Africa, Black Birds Hyderabad) (26:34.669); 2. Ruhaan Alva (India, Srachi Rarh Royal Bengal Tigers) (26:35.335); 3. Jaden Pariat (India, Bangalore Speedsters) (26:35.887). Best Lap: Aqil Alibhai (01:06.767).

FMSCI National Racing Championship: LGB Formula 4 (Race-1, 15 laps): 1. Dilith TS (Thrissur, Dark Don Racing) (19:19.910); 2. Dhruv Goswami (Bengaluru, MSPORT) (19:23.850); 3. Tijil Rao (Bengaluru, Dark Don Racing) (19:29.574).

Continental GT Cup (Race-1, 10 laps): 1. Yogesh P (Bengaluru) (13:42.862); 2. Johring Warisa (Umrangso) (14:00.662); 3. Johnson Saldanha (Mangaluru) (14:13.184).

National Rally C'chip: Gaurav Gill cruises to comfortable lead in Rally of Hyderabad

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, OCT 19

Arjuna Awardee driver Gaurav Gill began with a bang and cruised into form to take the lead, navigating the tricky and rough stages in the Rally of Hyderabad, the fourth round of the FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship 2024, here on Saturday. Gill, along with co-driver Anrudha Rangnekar, took the overall lead while the pair of Daraius Shroff and Arjun Dheerendra are leading the INRC3 class and Chetan Shivram and Shivprakash, were at the top in the INRC2 class.

In the final stage, SS4 was red flagged after only four cars crossed the finish line as a few cars toppled out. Three top guns, 2021 champion Aditya Thakur, defending champ Arjun Rao Aroor and INRC2 leader Harkishan Wadia, suffered casualties.

Daraius Shroff is leading INRC3 after three stages and Chetan Shivram tops the INRC2 class, also after three stages.

Earlier, Delhi speed maestro and seven-time National champion, Gill, clocked the fastest time in the first Special Stage and took a commanding lead of 17 seconds on former champion Chetan Shivram (co-driver Shivprakash) of Bengaluru with Arnav Pratap Singh and Gulbarga's Rithesh Guttedar following the top guns in the first stage. Gill kept his momentum with a combination of caution and aggression in the next three stages to cruise into a comfortable lead after Day 1. Chetan was fastest in JVR2, the second Special Stage, by 6.2 seconds, by Gill bounced back with another 15 second margin on Chetan in the third stage and retained his overall lead.

PKL Season 11: Defending champs Puneri Paltan romp to big win against Haryana Steelers in opener

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, OCT 19

Gaurav Khatri top-scored as defending champion Puneri Paltan kicked off their Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 11 campaign with a clinical performance against Haryana Steelers at the GMCB Indoor Stadium here on Saturday. Khatri scored seven points as the Puneri Paltan won the game 35-25.

Pankaj Mohite, Mohit Goyat and Aman registered four points each while Aslam Inamdar finished the day with five points to his name.

The Puneri Paltan captain Inamdar started proceedings for the day for the defending champions with a quick raid. However, the Haryana Steelers kept up pace with the Puneri Paltan, and both sides traded blows in the early exchanges, and neither were able to establish a significant lead.



Midway through the first half, the Puneri Paltan led 7-6 and the Haryana Steelers were finding it difficult to get going. Gaurav Khatri inflicted an All Out on the Haryana Steelers midway through the first half, which helped the Puneri Paltan take a 6-point lead.

Gaurav Khatri, Mohit Goyat, Pankaj Mohite and Aslam Inamdar led the charge for the Puneri Paltan, who finished the first half very strongly. At the midway stage of the contest, Puneri Paltan led

the contest 19-13.

The second half started at a slightly slower pace with both sides being watchful in the opening exchanges. However, the Puneri Paltan still led by 6 points, and as the first half progressed, they ensured the Haryana Steelers would not cause them too much trouble.

In the final phase of the contest, Mohammadreza Shadloui looked to up the ante for the Haryana Steelers, but the Puneri Paltan were in fine form and thwarted any chances of

a comeback.

With less than three minutes to go, Aslam Inamdar inflicted an All Out which helped the Puneri Paltan further strengthen their stranglehold on the contest. The Puneri Paltan eventually won the contest at a canter.

Earlier in the day, the Tamil Thalaivas commenced their PKL Season 11 campaign with a fantastic performance, as they swatted away the challenge of the Telugu Titans with relative ease on Saturday.

Pawan Sehrawat kicked off proceedings for the Telugu Titans with a Super Raid in the very first minute. Shortly after, the Telugu Titans captain picked up three more raid points to give his side a healthy lead.

However, a little later, Tamil Thalaivas' Sachin inflicted an ALL OUT as they surged ahead and took the lead on the Telugu Titans.

ISL 2024-25: Kolkata Derby sways in Mohun Bagan's favour with 2-0 win over East Bengal FC

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, OCT 19

Jamie Maclaren and Dimitrios Petratos scored a goal each as Mohun Bagan Super Giant pipped arch-rivals East Bengal FC 2-0 in a high-octane Kolkata Derby in Matchweek 5 of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 at the Yuba Bharati Krirangan here on Saturday. Mohun Bagan Super Giant controlled the tempo of the match from start to finish, as Maclaren and Petratos scored in either half, which was enough for Jose Molina's men to secure their eighth win against the Red & Gold Brigade in ISL.

The players took their time to settle into the electrifying atmosphere of 60,000-odd fans buzzing at the stadium. It was a tight start, with both teams wrestling for the authority in midfield. However, the first chance fell to Maclaren in the 18th minute when Greg Stewart found the



Australian with a beautiful cross.

However, Prabhsukhan Gill brilliantly denied Maclaren from point-blank range. A minute later, Mohun Bagan Super Giant had the ball in the back of the net from a corner but the goal was chalked off as Manvir Singh was flagged offside.

Despite the frustration, the Mariners maintained a high momentum and tested the Red and Gold Brigade with a barrage of attacks. In the 25th minute, they came close to scoring when Stewart found Manvir

in the box. The Indian forward tested Gill with a telling header but once again the East Bengal custodian stood up to the task.

Their relentless attacks finally bore fruit in the 41st minute when Manvir Singh with a sensational cross, found Maclaren in space. The Australian tucked it past Gill to hand Mohun Bagan Super Giant the lead.

The second half saw more of the same as Mohun Bagan Super Giant enjoyed the lion's share of possession and also had more teeth in their attacking moves. In the 59th minute, the Mariners had a brilliant chance to double their lead when Liston Colaco found space on the right flank. He started a vicious counter-attack but he decided to pull the trigger from long range due to lack of support in the penalty area. His effort didn't have enough venom to beat Gill under the sticks.

Looking at East Bengal FC's situation in attack,

head coach Oscar Bruzon turned to star forward Dimitrios Diamantakos to add more panache upfront. The new tactician also brought on youngsters like Jesin T.K., Lalchungnunga and Sayan Banerjee to add more energy. Reacting to East Bengal's changes, Jose Molina also turned to Dimitrios Petratos.

The 31-year-old didn't disappoint his fans as he earned a crucial penalty in the 89th minute following a reckless tackle from Gill. Petratos made no mistake from the spot to double the lead for the Mariners. Eventually, the two goals were enough for Molina's men to hold the fort for the last few minutes.

East Bengal FC will now travel to Bhubaneswar to face Odisha FC in search of their first win of the season on October 22. On the other hand, Mohun Bagan Super Giant will be back in action again on October 30 with a match against Hyderabad FC away from home.

Delhi Half Marathon: Focus on Indian elite runners Priti Lamba, Kiran Matre

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 19

The Delhi Half Marathon 2024 is set to showcase some of India's top long-distance running talent, with a lineup of elite athletes, who have consistently proven their mettle on both national and international stages.

Kavita Yadav, the defending champion of the Indian Elite Women's Race, enters the competition with an impressive track record. Her recent performances, including a second-place finish in the 10,000m at the 2023 National Open Athletics Championships, demonstrate her continued dominance in long-distance events. Yadav's personal best of 1:17:42 in last year's half marathon sets a high bar for this year's competition.

tion.

"There is more pressure on me given that I come to the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon as the defending champion. But I am ready for the challenge that lies ahead, and I expect to be close to my group throughout the race. I have been practicing well, but the competition is tougher than usual. It will be tough but I am sure I can reach the same standards as I did last year," Kavita said ahead of Sunday's road race.

She will face stiff competition from the likes of Priti Lamba and Nirma Thakore, two of India's top women road racers. Priti Lamba, known for her prowess in the 3000m steeplechase, won a bronze medal at the 2023 Asian Games. She is also a bronze medallist of the

Delhi Half Marathon 2022.

Speaking at Saturday's Press Meet, Priti revealed that she quit the sport for a few years. It was her husband who pushed her to return to professional sports and eventually trained her enough to win bronze at the Asian Games in 2023. "My sports career ended in 2017 because of an injury. After a break of a couple of years, I decided to get married. Then, my husband pushed me back into the field, and he trained me for a year, and since there has been no turning back. I will attribute my medal at the Asian Games to my husband, who has been my source of support," she said.

Priti added that she is a big fan of the Delhi Half Marathon, saying, "I like this half marathon. I have been running in the



Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon since 2014. And I have been practicing hard for the event this time around. I have kept aside my practice for the steeplechase in preparation for this half marathon.

Nirma Thakore, a farmer's daughter from the village of Hajipur in Patan taluka, had most recently secured victory at the 19th Mumbai Full Marathon 2024 in the Indian elite women category, completing the gruelling 41.195 km

course in an impressive 2 hours, 47 minutes and 11 seconds.

Formally known as Nirmaben Bharati Thakor, she won the International Marathon competition at Pune in 2019 and wants to take inspiration from the top international elite athletes who are taking to the New Delhi roads on Sunday. "I want to give my best to add a medal from the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon to my collection. I will take my motivation

from the International Elite athletes; I have seen their performances all over social media and I want to reach that level. I do not view it as competition but their timings are something that we aim to achieve," she said.

In the men's category, the competition is equally fierce. Kiran Matre, fresh from his victory at the World 10K Bengaluru, where he clocked a personal best of 29:32, is ready to make a significant impact.

"As a part of the army, we are taught to stay focused and dedicated. I have brought this into my practice for half marathons and it has helped me improve as an athlete. (About the upcoming road race) I suffered an injury a month back and it was literally a 'race'

against time to get fit for the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon. I am thankful to my coach and every one who helped me through this process, and I hope to make them proud," said Kiran a day ahead of the half marathon. His competition comes in the form of Sawan Barwal, who was a bronze medallist in last year's event. His impressive credentials include an individual bronze and team gold at the Asian Half Marathon Championship in 2023. Barwal's recent gold medal in the 5000m at the National Senior Athletics Competition underscores his current form and readiness for the challenge ahead. "I will try my best to turn the bronze to gold. I am glad that the weather conditions are favourable so I hope to use that well" he said.

Sawan also added that the introduction of pacesetters will do well for the future of runners in India, "Outside India, pacesetters help us improve ourselves as athletes. If we introduce this concept in India, we can expect the standard to improve massively."

Rounding out the elite field is Kalidas Hirve, whose extensive marathon experience adds depth to the competition. With over 100 marathons under his belt and a personal best of 2:18:14 in the full marathon, Hirve's endurance and race strategy will be key factors in the half marathon event.

The Delhi Half Marathon, set to kick off at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Sunday boasts a prize purse of USD 260,000.

Women's T20 WC: South Africa, New Zealand eye maiden title in historic final

AGENCIES
DUBAI, OCT 19

The South Africa Women will take on New Zealand in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 final on Sunday evening at the Dubai International Stadium in the United Arab Emirates, with both teams vying for their

first-ever World Cup title in the short format.

South Africa go into the final having alternated between wins and losses in their last four T20 International clashes against New Zealand, but they hold the upper hand, winning their most recent contest by 11 runs in October last year.

Furthermore, the Proteas Women have enjoyed significant success in recent ICC Women's T20 World Cup encounters with the White Ferns, winning two of their last three meetings, including a commanding 65-run victory in Paarl during last year's tournament held on home soil. The Proteas will

be playing in their second consecutive ICC Women's T20 World Cup final, joining the ranks of Australia, New Zealand, and England as teams that have reached back-to-back finals. In the semifinal against the Aussies, South Africa's Anneke Bosch was the star with the bat, scoring an unbeaten 74

at a strike rate of 154.2, an innings that ranks among the best in the history of knockout matches in the competition. The Proteas Women all-rounder Chloe Tryon shared insights on the team's mindset ahead of this monumental clash in the pre-final press conference.

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, OCT 19

The Tamil Thalaivas commenced their PKL Season 11 campaign with a fantastic performance, as they swatted away the challenge of

the Telugu Titans with relative ease at the GMCB Indoor Stadium, Gachibowli, here on Saturday. The Tamil Thalaivas rode the brilliance of Narender & Sachin, winning the contest by a scoreline of 44-29.

Pawan kicked off proceedings for the Telugu Titans with a Super Raid in the very first minute. Shortly after, the Telugu Titans captain picked up three more raid points to give his side a healthy lead.

Justice Tashi hands over compensation cheques in MACT cases

J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19

Continuing with the resolve to provide quick, affordable and hassle free resolution of disputes as mandated under Constitution of India, J&K Legal Services Authority today organised a Special Lok Adalat throughout the UT of J&K under the patronage of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority) and dynamic mentorship of Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority) as well as under the able guidance of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee, with special emphasis on amicable settlement of MACT and Matrimonial Cases that were pending disposal before various courts in UT of J&K.

Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan during his visit to a remote district, Kupwara also inspected the ongoing proceedings of amicable settlement during the Special Lok Adalat and interacted with the litigants besides, handing over cheques of settlement amount to the beneficiaries in claim cases that were successfully resolved during the Lok Adalat.

Chief Justice Tashi emphasized the importance of such initiatives to provide quick and cost-effective justice, particularly in cases like motor accident claims and matrimonial disputes in which the claimants need relief as early as possible to save them from vagaries of life. He reiterated his commitment in ensuring that justice remains accessible to all the sections of society, especially those living in far flung areas through the mechanism of Lok Adalat, which facilitates dispute resolution outside the tra-



ditional court processes. In another program, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Administrative Judge for District Anantnag, inaugurated the Special Lok Adalat at District Court Complex, Anantnag and also handed over cheques of the settlement amount to the beneficiaries in MACT cases. Justice Koul said that Lok Adalat is an efficient mode not only in reducing the pendency of cases but also providing a medium for extending immediate relief to the litigants and

beneficiaries especially in accident and family related disputes. He further remarked that quick and timely resolution of a dispute is crucial for economic development of a nation. As per the data received from various District Legal Services Authorities, UT of J&K, a total of 892 cases were taken up in the Special Lok Adalat, out of which 374 cases were amicably settled involving a total amount of Rs. 8,38,36,218/- giving a huge relief to the litigants.

Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Author-

ity while talking to media persons informed that the next special lok Adalat shall be held on Saturday, November 16, 2024 focusing on the settlement of Revenue cases. He urged the Advocates in general and the litigants in particular to take maximum benefit of such Special Lok Adalats which are being organized by the J&K Legal Services Authority.

Appreciating the efforts of all the Judicial Officers, Secretaries DLSA's, Advocates, staff of the district and tehsil courts as well as Legal Services Institutions besides litigants for their whole hearted participation in the Special Lok Adalat and facilitating settlement of cases in such a large number, he also acknowledged the role of Para Legal Volunteers and the media, both print and electronic in creating and spreading awareness amongst the masses about such initiatives of Legal Services Authority.

DDC Chairman inaugurates new educational facilities at GHS Kilhotran

J NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 19

In a major step towards improving educational infrastructure, the Chairman District Development Council (DDC) inaugurated several new facilities at Government High School (HS) Kilhotran in Bhalessa area. The newly unveiled rooms include an Art and Craft Room, a Computer Room, a Science Laboratory, and a fully-equipped Library, significantly enhancing the school's resources for students.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by key dignitaries, including the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Gundow, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Doda, District Education Planning Officer (DEPO) Doda, Executive Engineer Gundow, and ZEO.

In his keynote address, the DDC Chairman stressed the importance



of upgrading rural educational facilities, noting that the introduction of modern tools such as computer labs and science laboratories will equip students with the skills necessary to thrive in today's competitive world.

The Chairman emphasized the goal of bridging the gap between the rural and urban education systems through access to cutting-edge technology and learning resources. He remarked that these new facilities would foster creativity, scientific exploration, and digital literacy,

empowering students to pursue careers in various fields. He also acknowledged the efforts of the education department and local administration for their dedication to improving educational infrastructure.

The event concluded with a tour of the newly inaugurated rooms, where guests were briefed on how the new facilities would be integrated into the school's curriculum, promoting academic excellence and inspiring students to reach their full potential.

Attestation-cum-passing out parade held at STC BSF Udhampur

J NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 19

A grand Attestation-cum-passing out Parade was held today at the Subsidiary Training Centre BSF Roun Domel, Dhar Road Udhampur district.

The event was graced by Rajesh Kumar Gurung, Inspector General of the Subsidiary Training Centre, Udhampur, as the Chief Guest, who received the salute from the parade. A total of 312 new recruits from the states of Andhra Pradesh (120), Odisha (190) and West Bengal (2) participated in the parade after completing their 44 weeks of rigorous basic training. They took the oath of service to the nation and are now ready to proceed to their respective duty postings. The Chief Guest commended the officers and instructors of the Centre for providing exceptional



basic training to the new recruits, molding them into hardworking, courageous, and disciplined soldiers. He expressed his appreciation for their dedicated efforts.

In recognition of excellence, the Chief Guest awarded trophies to recruit constables who excelled in various disciplines. Sonam Shering, Commandant (Trg), extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest and other dignitaries. The ceremony was attended by senior officers of District Udhampur, prominent citizens from the surrounding area, senior officers of the Central Police Forces, teachers,

school children, families of the recruit constables and other officers and personnel from the Centre, all of whom encouraged the new recruits.

Following the parade, the recruits demonstrated various Indian martial arts, including Lathi Khela from West Bengal, "Karra Samu" from Andhra Pradesh, and "Kalaripayattu" from Kerala.

A vibrant patriotic cultural program was also presented by students from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya and Government Higher Secondary School, Juganoo, which was met with enthusiastic applause from the audience.

DC Srinagar presides over Capacity Building Program on implementation of Project YUVA

J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today inaugurated a day-long capacity building training program aimed at enhancing the skills of District level Officers for effective implementation of Project YUVA.

The training programme was organized by the Department of Employment at Meeting Hall of DC Office Srinagar

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner lauded the initiative and assured full support and cooperation from the District Administration to ensure the successful execution of Project YUVA. He emphasized the importance of such capacity-building programs in achieving the desired impact.

The training session



saw the participation of 40 District-level Officers, including Block Development Officers (BDOs) and Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs).

The program was designed to equip the Officers with the necessary knowledge and expertise to successfully execute Project YUVA's objectives.

During the training programme, Deputy Director Employment Srinagar, Dr. Sheeba Inayat, gave an insightful overview of

the program, outlining its significance and long-term benefits.

While experts provided an in-depth briefing on the project's goals, strategies, and expected outcomes, offering a detailed roadmap for its implementation.

This event marked a significant step toward empowering district officers to contribute effectively to the goals of Project YUVA.

DDC reviews achievements under Self Employment Schemes in Poonch

J NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, OCTOBER 19

District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal today convened a review meeting here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess the implementation of employment generation schemes in the District.

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

The DDC took an extensive department wise review of cases sanctioned under different schemes, including Mumkin, Tejaswini, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP), DIC, KVIB, Credit card, PMSSY

and other self-employment-oriented schemes.

The officers were asked to identify potential areas for employment generation and devise strategies to promote self-employment among the youth. Stress was laid on the importance of creating a supportive and enabling environment for entrepreneurship and job creation in the District.

The DDC called for regular monitoring and evaluation of ongoing projects to address issues promptly and improve overall outcomes.

ADC Poonch, GM DIC, Deputy Director Employment, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sericulture Officer, AD Tourism, AD Handloom, AD fisheries, AD Floriculture and other concerned officers were present.

Mission YUVA: Capacity building program held for stakeholders at Kathua

J NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, OCTOBER 19

A one-day capacity building program under Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan) was organised today here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Kathua.

The program was held under the supervision of ADDC, Surinder Mohan Sharma as part of the preparatory phase of Project YUVA.

The interactive session aimed to equip stakeholders with an understanding of the mission's goal: to empower young people with the skills and entrepreneurial mindset necessary to create sustainable livelihood opportunities. The initiative also supports innovative ideas and offers handholding to help young entrepreneurs establish startups.

Participants included Block Development Officers, Child Development Project Officers, and experts from across several departments. The program featured interactive sessions and discussions to align all stakeholders with the project's objectives.



Resource persons from Government Polytechnic College Jammu, NABARD, and J&K Bank provided insights into their respective roles. They shared their expertise on topics ranging from credit facilitation to promoting youth entrepreneurship, emphasizing how stakeholders can actively contribute to extending these opportunities to potential beneficiaries.

The ADDC urged the stakeholders to focus on

the initial survey phase of the project, aiming to identify young entrepreneurs with sustainable approaches to maximize the project's impact on generating livelihood opportunities in the region.

Representatives from J&K Bank highlighted the bank's role in providing financial support to young entrepreneurs, while experts from NABARD discussed collaborative strategies to

drive the mission forward, particularly in rural areas.

Pertinently, under Project YUVA, a target has been set to facilitate the establishment of over 1.37 lakh enterprises across the region, including 1.25 lakh new nano enterprises.

GM DIC, CPO Kathua, AD Employment, and other concerned officers were also present at the program.

DDC Chairman dedicates newly constructed KGBV building to Girl Students at Gandoh

J NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 19

In a landmark event, District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Dhananter Singh Kotwal inaugurated the newly constructed Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) building at Gandoh, marking a significant step towards empowering girls through education.

The event was attended by Chief Education Officer PL Thapa; DEPO Dr. Anis Ahmed; Executive Engineer PWD Gandoh, Mohd Atta Sheikh; Principal GHSS Gandoh Mohd Ayub Sheikh and ZEO Bhalessa, who is overseeing the functioning of the KGBV.

During the ceremony, Chairman Kotwal praised the leadership of Principal GHSS Gandoh and ZEO Bhalessa for their effective management of the institution. He extended his best wishes to the girls studying at KGBV, encouraging them to pursue their dreams and strive for a bright future. The students were also applauded for their powerful performance of a poem on the theme "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao," a reflection of



the school's commitment to the education of the girl child.

In his address, Chairman Kotwal directed the Executive Engineer PWD to expedite the construction of a boundary wall around the KGBV building, ensuring a secure environment for the students. He also called upon the public to support the KGBV

Warden in the smooth functioning of the school and expressed his gratitude to the local resident who generously donated land for the school's establishment.

Additionally, Chairman Kotwal urged the Block Development Officer (BDO) Changa to facilitate the installation of a Common Service

Centre (CSC) within the KGBV premises, providing enhanced facilities for both students and staff. He concluded by expressing his appreciation for the warm reception from the students, marking the inauguration as a significant step forward in advancing girls' education in the region.