

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

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

**Watch out for dengue warning signs!**

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

- Severe and continuous abdominal pain
- Diarrhoea
- Persistent vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness on the skin

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## Ganderbal terror attack Terrorists responsible will soon be neutralised: LG Sinha in Jammu

**AGENCIES**  
JAMMU, OCT 21

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here on Monday visited the family of Shashi Abrol, who was among seven killed in a terror attack on Sunday evening in Ganderbal district.

"Met the family members of Martyr Shashi Abrol in Jammu and offered my condolences," LG Sinha posted on X.

He further posted, "Assured them that the

terrorists responsible for his Martyrdom will be neutralised soon. The Government will take care of the welfare, job and education of the next of kin."

Later speaking to the reporters outside his residence, Sinha said, "the security forces have been given free hand to identify and eliminate the terrorists responsible for the attack."

"I am sure that security forces will soon neutralise the terrorists and bring them to justice," he

said.

The Lieutenant Governor however, also announced that the company that has employed the labourers will be providing compensation along with the relief announced by the government, adding, "we will also look into providing the government job under SRO-23." Sinha also lambasted Pakistan stating that they are frustrated with the peaceful environment but they (Pakistan) will gain nothing out of such actions.

## Lt Governor visits family of Martyr Civilian Shashi Abrol in Jammu



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 21

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today visited the family of Sh Shashi Abrol, who was killed by Terrorists at Gagangir in Ganderbal on Sunday. CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## LG visited SKIMS Hospital, inquired about the health of Civilians injured

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 21

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today visited SKIMS Hospital in Srinagar to inquire about the health of civilians, who were injured in Gagangir terror attack.

Team of senior doctors briefed the Lt Governor on the health condition of the injured and medical procedures being followed. The Lt Governor has also directed the officials to provide all the support to the affected families.

The Lt Governor has directed for a coordinated anti-terror op and asked



the J&K Police, security forces to exact a price that will be remembered by the terrorists and their associates for time to come.

The Lt Governor has posted on X: "Visited the Hospital in Srinagar to inquire about the health of construction workers, who were injured in Gagangir terror attack. I pray for their speedy recovery. Directed the officials to provide

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## LG directs immediate financial assistance for Victims

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 21

The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today directed Shri Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary (Home Department, J&K) to immediately provide financial assistance to the families of civilian victims of Gagangir terrorist attack.

He has also asked the APCO Infratech company to release the compensation without any delay. The officials of APCO Infratech briefed the Lieu-

tenant Governor on assistance being provided to the kin / family members.

Under SRE, Rs.6 Lakh to be given to the next of kin of each martyred civilian and Rs.15 Lakh as an immediate measure to be provided by APCO Infratech. An ex-gratia of Rs.2 Lakh to be provided to all the injured.

Additionally, APCO Infratech will also provide financial assistance to the families of civilians on roll under Corporate Personal Accident Policy and

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Lt Governor pays homage to civilians martyred in Gagangir terror attack

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 21

On the occasion of 'Police Commemoration Day', Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha laid wreath at Martyrs' Memorial, Armed Police Complex, Zewan and paid tributes to brave police officers and personnel who have laid down their lives in line of duty. He also paid homage to civilians martyred in Gagangir terror attack.

"I salute the bravehearts of our Police."

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4



## GOC White Knight Corps reviews security in Thanamandi

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, OCT 21

The General-Officer-Commanding White Knight Corps Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva on Monday reviewed security in upper reaches of Thanamandi in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The GOC #WhiteKnightCorps, accompanied by #GOC #CIF (Romeo), visited the upper reaches of the Pir Panjal range in the #Thanamandi Sector to assess the security

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4



## Chief Minister pays tributes to Police Martyrs on Commemoration Day at Zewan memorial

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 21

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today paid homage to police martyrs on Police Commemoration Day during a solemn ceremony at the Police Martyrs Memorial here at Zewan.

Accompanied by members of his Council of Ministers, Javed Ahmad Rana and Javid Ahmad Dar, as well as Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4



## Massive searches underway in Ganderbal

**AGENCIES**  
SRINAGAR, OCT 21

Security forces on Monday continued to carry out a massive search operation to track down the militants behind one of the deadliest attacks on civilians in Kashmir in a long time, officials said.

Seven employees of an infrastructure firm, including a Kashmiri doctor, were killed on Sunday evening in a terror attack on a workers' camp near the tourist resort of Sonamarg on the strate-

gic Srinagar-Leh highway. Five other workers were also injured in the attack.

The attack on the workers took place hours after the J&K hosted a major sporting event "Kashmir Marathon" in Srinagar to "showcase normalcy".

The officials said soon after the attack, police and army launched a joint search operation in the area to trace the attackers, suspected to be two to three in number.

"Massive search operation is underway to

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## CM Omar Abdullah, 85 others took oath as legislators of J&K Legislative Assembly

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 21

Newly sworn-in Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, along with 85 others today took oath as members of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

Pro-tem Speaker, Mubarik Gul, administered oath to the elected members of the J&K Legislative Assembly.

The Chief Minister was the first to take the oath followed by his council of ministers and other MLAs. Congratulating the



newly elected MLA's, Pro-tem Speaker expressed hope that they would raise the issues related to the public welfare in a total professional manner. He exhorted upon the

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## Farooq Abdullah urges Pakistan's to stop attacks

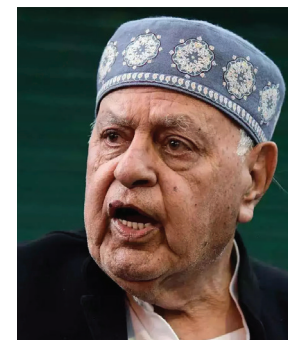
**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCT 21

A Day after seven workers, including a doctor, were killed in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah urged Pakistan's leadership to stop such attacks if they truly wish to foster friendship with India.

He firmly stated that such deadly attacks would not result in Kashmir becoming part of Pakistan.

In one of the deadliest attacks on civilians in Kashmir in recent years, seven employees of an infrastructure firm were killed on Sunday evening in a terrorist attack on a workers' camp near the Sonamarg tourist resort along the strategic Srinagar-Leh highway. Five other workers were injured in the assault.

"This is a deeply painful incident. These beasts



martyred these poor people yesterday. Tell me, what will these beasts gain from this? Do they believe that they can turn Kashmir into Pakistan with such acts?" Abdullah questioned.

He added that such violence has been ongoing for many years.

"They ( militants) are coming from there. We are trying to resolve this matter so that we can move forward and overcome these difficulties. I want to say to Pakistan's rulers: if they really

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Ganderbal terror attack: Celebrations turn into mourning in a sleepy Central Kashmir village

**AGENCIES**  
SRINAGAR, OCT 21

Last week, Shahnawaz Ahmed Dar, in his fifties, celebrated his daughter's wedding at their home in Nadigam, Budgam, in central Kashmir. A dedicated doctor, Shahnawaz was committed to his role at the APCO Infratech company's camp site near the tourist resort of Sonamarg in Ganderbal district. He didn't want the workers there to suffer if they faced any health issues.

Two days ago, Shahnawaz, a father of three, traveled to the camp, promising his family that he would return on Tuesday when his daughter was to come back to her parents' home, as per the Kashmiri ritual known as "fira." Little did his family know that he would return not in joy, but in a shroud on Monday morn-



ing.

Shahnawaz was among the seven employees of the Infratech company who were killed in a terror attack on the workers' camp near Sonamarg on Sunday evening. The camp is located along the strategic Srinagar-Leh highway. Five other workers were also injured in the attack, making it one of the deadliest on civilians in Kashmir in recent memory.

A pall of gloom descended over the entire

village as the news of his death spread. The whole village mourned the loss of their beloved doctor.

"He was the most gentlemanly person in the area and a dedicated doctor," said Shahnawaz's cousin Tariq Ahmed, an advocate. "He had left an ad-hoc government job and had been working with the infra company for the past five years."

Local villagers shared how Shahnawaz would always care for sick people in his community

whenever he was home.

His son, Mohsin, was in a state of shock, unable to comprehend the tragedy. "My father always encouraged me to become a doctor like him, but I wanted to become an IAS officer," he said. "Now, all those dreams are shattered. How will we move forward?"

Shahnawaz had been the sole breadwinner for his family, which left them devastated.

There was visible anger among the villagers over the attack on innocent civilians.

"Seven civilians died in this attack, all of them working hard to provide for their families. What was their fault? Why were they attacked?" asked a resident from Nadigam.

Shahnawaz was laid to rest in a local graveyard amid heart-wrenching sobs and sorrow.

## Chief Minister Omar visits SKIMS, assures best care for civilians injured in Gagangeer



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 21

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, today visited Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, to inquire about the condition of civilians injured in the recent Gagangeer attack. During the visit, the Chief Minister was briefed by Director SKIMS, Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, along with a team of senior doctors, on

the health status of the injured and the medical procedures being followed for their treatment.

Chief Minister Abdullah personally visited each injured individual, speaking with them about their injuries and receiving detailed updates from the medical staff on the ongoing line of treatment. He expressed his concern and care for the victims, directing the doctors and hospital administration

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4



## Project YUVA Capability Building Training Program held at Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 21

To enhance the skills and knowledge of district-level officers, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan inaugurated a one-day capacity building training program on Project YUVA here today in the Conference Hall, DC Office.

The training program commenced with a welcome address by Assistant Director Employment, Mamta Sudershan. The AD briefed the attendees about the objectives of the session. The program witnessed the active participation of 35 district-level officers, including the Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Block Development Officers (BDOs), and Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs).



The aim was to provide these officers with the necessary tools and knowledge to effectively implement Project YUVA in their respective domains.

The training was enriched by key experts in the field. BDO Inderwal, Hitesh Kumar Loona, DNO JKEDI, Aejaz Ahmed and Nikhil Sharma, DDM NABARD Kishtwar, delivered insightful presentations. They provided a detailed overview of Project YUVA, emphasizing

its objectives, goals and implementation strategies. Hitesh Kumar Loona, in particular, outlined a roadmap for the project, highlighting how it will engage with the youth at the block and panchayat levels, encouraging innovative ideas and entrepreneurship.

The DDC lauded the efforts made to organize the training and emphasized the importance of capacity building for district officers. He assured

the full support and cooperation of the district administration in implementing Project YUVA successfully. The DDC Kishtwar also urged the officers to be proactive in their approach and ensure that the program reaches its intended beneficiaries, especially the youth across the blocks and panchayats, making them aware of the innovative opportunities that Project YUVA offers.

This training program marks a crucial step towards strengthening the capacity of district officers, facilitating the effective rollout of Project YUVA across Kishtwar. The initiative is expected to significantly contribute to the district's overall development strategy by empowering the youth, promoting entrepreneurship and fostering innovation at the grassroots level.

## District-Wide fogging drive conducted in Rajouri to combat Dengue

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 21

A comprehensive fogging drive was carried out today across all municipalities of Rajouri district, including Rajouri town, as a concerted effort to combat spread of dengue. The initiative was launched under the supervision of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Raj Kumar Thapa, who also holds the charge of Administrator for the municipalities of Nowshera, Kalakote, Sunderbani and Thanamandi.

In response to the increasing concerns over dengue cases in the district, the fogging operation was launched simultaneously in all municipal areas. This proactive measure aimed to reduce mosquito breeding and prevent further spread of the disease, which poses



a significant health risk to the local population.

The ADDC emphasized the importance of the drive in safeguarding public health. He said that every municipality under his jurisdiction, including the urban pockets of Rajouri town, is being targeted to ensure thorough coverage. "Our priority is to break the chain of mosquito breeding, especially in the vulnerable

areas with stagnant water and increased mosquito threat. The fogging drive is part of our larger strategy to protect the community from dengue," said Thapa.

Executive Officers (EOs) of all municipalities were actively involved in coordinating the logistics of the drive, ensuring that all areas, including public spaces, residential colonies, and commercial zones, were covered. Spe-

cial attention was given to high-density areas.

The health authorities and municipal bodies have been working in close coordination to ensure the effectiveness of the fogging operations.

The ADDC said that the fogging process will continue in the coming days, with follow-up measures planned in areas showing signs of dengue resurgence.

In addition to the fogging drive, the district administration is also focused on raising public awareness about dengue prevention. Citizens have been urged to cooperate with the administration by keeping their surroundings clean, ensuring that there is no stagnant water in and around their homes, and promptly reporting any suspected cases of dengue to health officials.

## Power shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 21

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Doda and its adjoining areas will remain affected on October 27 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Sarthal and its adjoining areas will remain affected on October 23 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Bhaderwah Town and its adjoining areas will remain affected on October 23 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Burmal, Rakh Muthi, Devipur, Ballian da Bagh, Pallwan, PHE Line, BSF, Jourian, MES, Troti, Bakore and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 23 and 25 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Likewise, the power supply to Areas fed from Akhnoor and Kalakote Grid Stations, Akhnoor, Jourian, Pargwal and Kalakote will remain affected on October 23 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Meanwhile, the Superintendent Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Nud, Navodhaya and its adjoining areas will remain affected on October 22 from 7 am to 9 am.

## DC Shopian reviews Winter preparedness, sought deptt wise Action Plans & their meticulous execution

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 21

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today chaired a meeting of officers to take an elaborate review of the winter preparedness of departments in view of approaching winters.

The meeting involved deliberation by officers about their department wise Action Plans to tackle the winter related eventualities. 21 Snow clearance machines are stationed at Control Rooms manned by adequate staff for quick snow clearance in the district, apprised Mechanical engineering department head.

A buffer stock of transformers, timely repairs and replacement of distribution transformers, proper adherence to the power schedule shall be ensured, apprised ExEn KPDCCL.

The DC reviewed the availability of ration, water, healthcare facilities and was apprised that advance ration shall be distributed for winter in the month of December besides all healthcare facilities shall be taken care of and men mobilized



to tackle any health emergency.

DC instructed the Jal Shakti department to ensure uninterrupted water supply throughout the district during the cold season.

The DC also reviewed Plans of MC Shopian for snow clearance, provision of facilities to citizens, and also took stock of readiness of R&B, PMGSY, and other departments.

Fire and Emergency, Disaster Management Authority, SDRF, and others were also instructed to remain prepared to tackle any eventuality.

DC directed all concerned officials to coordinate among themselves and ensure no laxity in

preparations and stressed that all departments must remain vigilant to prevent any disruption during the winters.

During the review, DC directed for establishing the District, Sub-Divisional, Tehsil and Sectoral Control Rooms to respond to eventualities and their publicity for the benefits of the general public for grievances redressal.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, ACR, CMO, DPO, DIO, AD FCS&CA, DIO (Informatics), ExEn of KPDCCL, Jal Shakti, R&B Zainapora, Shopian, PMGSY, Dy.SP, Incharge SDRF, CEO MC, MS DH and other concerned officers.

## Udhampur JU Campus hosts debate competition on Environmental Conservation

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 21

The Udhampur Campus of the University of Jammu, in collaboration with the J&K Science Technology & Innovation Council, Department of Science & Technology, Udhampur, organized a thought-provoking debate competition at Government High School, Garnai Lotta. Centered on the theme "Is the Traditional Way of Environmental Conservation Sufficient to Meet the Needs of an Environmental Crisis?" the event aimed to enhance environmental sustainability and encourage innovative practices for addressing critical environmental issues.

This event was envisioned by Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai, with special thanks extended to him and Rector Prof. Yash Pal Sharma and Shrutika Khanna, District Coordinator, Department of science and technology for their support in organizing such impactful events.

The principal of the school, Rohini Gupta, welcomed attendees and expressed gratitude to the J&K Science Technology & Innovation Council, Department of Science & Technology, and



for the integration of modern techniques and scientific advancements. The competition fostered a vibrant exchange of ideas, with the audience encouraged to engage and reflect on their own views regarding environmental stewardship.

In an exciting conclusion, students from the school showcased a lively debate performance. The competition was judged by Dr. Pankaj Sharma, who announced the winners: Miss Riya from class 9th secured first prize.

In her remarks, Taruna Dubey expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu and the Rector of Udhampur Campus, Coordinator JKSTIC, Udhampur for supporting such awareness initiatives. She also thanked the school, campus teaching and non-teaching staff, as

well as the students and participants for their contributions to the success of the event. Later, in his virtual address, Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, Rector of Udhampur Campus, highlighted the importance of raising awareness among locals and the necessity for collaborative efforts in addressing the environmental crisis.

The event was coordinated and hosted by Taruna Dubey, with support from Dr. Ritika Sambyal, Dr. Kamini Dutta, Nikhil Khajuria, and Dr. Sunita Kumari, faculty members from Udhampur Campus. This competition marks another significant step by Udhampur Campus to promote awareness and action on crucial environmental issues, encouraging future generations to think critically and innovate for a healthier planet.

## MC Shopian dedicates Community Water Purifiers at Shopian Town



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 21

Municipal Council (MC) Shopian today dedicated community water purifier at Clock Tower chowk in Shopian town to the public. The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar inaugurated the community water purifier complex in the presence of MC officers and officials and local business and traders fra-

ternity.

This initiative is part of ongoing efforts to improve accessibility of potable water for the commuters, transporters and local businesses, thereby accelerating the public health betterment.

While speaking on the occasion, the DC said that this initiative aims to provide clean and safe drinking water to the commuters, addressing concerns related to water quality and public health.

## DC flags off mobile vans under "Poshan on Wheels" in Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 21

A program under Poshan Abhiyaan, was organized Today at the office complex of District Programme Officer Poshan, Udhampur. At the event, two mobile vans under the theme "Poshan on Wheels" were flagged off by the Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai in presence of PO Poshan Subash Dogra for generating awareness about the various schemes of Poshan. While briefing the media, the DC informed that the mobile vans would traverse across the district, covering all Panchayats as per a set schedule. The objective is to create widespread awareness and mobilize a Jan Andolan regarding the various schemes implemented by the Poshan Department.

In her address, the DC



emphasized the department's interventions aimed at reducing malnourishment among children, as well as pregnant and lactating women. She highlighted the importance of regular growth monitoring and tracking other vital health parameters at Anganwadi Centers using the Poshan Tracker application.

The program also featured engaging awareness activities such as songs

and skits performed by Sanginis to further spread awareness among the attendees.

The event was attended by Subhash Chander Dogra, PO Poshan Udhampur; Narender Mohan Suri, Chief Education Officer Udhampur; Child Development Project Officers from Udhampur and Panchari; Supervisors; Health & Nutrition Mobilizers and Anganwadi Workers.

## Sakina Itoo, Javid Dar condemn Ganderbal killings, meet family of slain Dr. Shahnawaz



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, OCTOBER 21

Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health & Medical Education, Sakina Itoo and Minister for RDD and Agriculture, Javid Ahmad Dar today visited Naidgam Budgam to condole the demise of Dr Shahnawaz, who had been killed in a terrorist attack at Gagangir in Ganderbal on Sunday evening.

They strongly con-

demned the killing of Dr. Shahnawaz, and other 6 persons, victims of the recent terrorist attack in Ganderbal.

This heinous act has sent shockwaves throughout the community, and the ministers extended deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of the deceased.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time," said the Ministers.

The Ministers visited the deceased's family to pay respects and offer support.

During the visit, the Ministers prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul, seeking peace and solace for those affected by this tragedy.

The Ministers assured the family of Dr. Shahnawaz that the government will provide necessary support during this challenging time.



## DC Kupwara chairs NCORD meeting

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, OCTOBER 21

In order to review the progress made to curb drug abuse in Kupwara district, a meeting of District Level Committee of Narco Coordination (NCORD) was held today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan at meeting hall of DC Office Complex, here.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed appraisal from concerned members of NCORD Committee regarding the present scenario of drug related occurrences, various issues related to menace of drug addiction, its control and rehabilitation and areas of concern.

She meticulously reviewed the implementation of the measures taken and progress achieved to eliminate drug abuse and its peddling in Kupwara District.

The DC took feedback from the members of the Committee who presented the latest report related to action taken against drug-addiction and drug trafficking in the District.

On the occasion, Ayushi stressed upon the Officers of all the line Departments to further intensify IEC activities, connecting communities including religious influencers and civil society members.

She also emphasized the Officers including Enforcement agencies for identification and close vigil of entry points, hot spots of drugs, public places and abandoned buildings.

Similarly, the DC also laid thrust on further intensifying IEC campaigns (seminars, rallies and other programmes and other programmes on the harmful effects of drug menace) at Schools and Colleges levels to sensitize students and common masses about

ill-effects of drugs and close coordination between Health, Education and other line departments.

The DC meticulously reviewed the functioning of Drug De-addiction Centre Kupwara and Addiction Treatment Facility Centre (ATFC) Handwara and stressed for upscaling the therapeutic management and proper counseling of the drug addicts which can help the addicts to come out of the menace.

She said in order to combat this rising societal problem, multi-pronged Rehabilitation, Counselling and Guidance policy is indispensable to be implemented on ground to monitor drug abuse and take remedial measures to curb the menace so that sufferings of the drug-affected persons is mitigated.

On the occasion CMO Kupwara, Dr. Ramzan

appraised the chair that 1182 cases of drug and substance abuse have been identified in the district, 676 have been treated and 345 cases have fully recovered till date.

It was given out that 100 percent CCTV cameras have been installed in the medical stores of the district.

Chair was apprised that as many as 52 FIRs were registered in police district Kupwara, 73 drug peddlers were arrested. In police district Handwara 19 FIRs were registered and 46 drug peddlers were arrested and lodged in different jails.

The meeting among others was attended by ADC Kupwara, Mohammad Rouf Rehman, ACP Kupwara, ASP Kupwara, CMO Kupwara, CEO Kupwara, Medical Superintendent DH Handwara, Assistant Drug controller, Tehsildars besides other concerned Officers.

## DM calls for heightening vigil against illegal mining in Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 21

District Magistrate Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today asked the enforcement departments to intensify efforts to curb illegal mining activities in the district.

He was chairing the meeting of District Level Task Force attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Joginder Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioners Ansuya Jamwal and Shishir Gupta, Sub Divisional Magistrates, District Mining Officer and other senior police officers.

The meeting stressed on reinforcing coordination among the enforcement agencies to combat illegal mining effectively. Focus was on identification of hotspots and devising targeted plans to tighten noose around perpetrators of unlawful mining activities.

DM Sachin Kumar Vaishya directed the SDMs and Sub-Divisional Police Officers to formulate comprehensive plans to step up vigil in the areas prone to illegal mining. "We must take all necessary steps and set strong precedents to deter illegal mining activities," the District Magistrate stressed. He further emphasised the

need for strict adherence to the demarcated mining zones, ensuring no deviation from the regulations.

One of the key directives issued by the DM was to strictly enforce the permissible time for mining operations, which is from 6 am to 6 pm. "No mining activity should be allowed after 6 pm and this rule must be followed rigorously to prevent unauthorised operations," he said.

Additionally, the DM called for increased vigilance on both illegal mining and its logistics, such as the transportation of illegally mined materials, to effectively curb the illicit trade.

Assuring the full support of the district administration, the DM urged all officers involved in the enforcement to work collaboratively and efficiently. "The administration will provide all necessary assistance to ensure the successful curbing of illegal mining activities," he added.

SSP Joginder Singh also reiterated the need for strict enforcement of law and maintaining close vigil at all costs. He reassured full cooperation from the police departments to ensure clamp down on illegal mining operations.

## One Day CBP under Mission Yuva held for officers of line departments at Kulgam



JI NEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, OCTOBER 21

The District Employment and Counseling Centre Kulgam today organized a one day Capacity Building Program (CBP) under the ambitious Project YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan) for officers of line departments.

The program was presided by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan.

Bashir Ah. Wani, ADDC; ACD, AD Employment and others officers from line departments besides officers/ officials of DE&CC Kulgam attended the programme. Addressing the occasion, the DC stressed the line departments to have baseline survey about potential entrepreneurs and disseminate knowledge about different schemes to the unemployed youth from which they can get benefit, and

get regular feedback from beneficiaries post disbursement.

The line departments were stressed to prepare Entrepreneurs who can benefited from agri-allied sectors.

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Sheikh, post DOC, ICSSR New Delhi participated in the inaugural sessions followed DPR session by Nodal Officer JKEDI Kulgam.

Final session was conducted by Zonal Head JK Bank Anantnag in which credit linkage system was explained to implementing officers scheme.

The YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan) initiative aims to foster entrepreneurship and accelerate employment, skill development opportunities, incubation centres across Jammu and Kashmir by empowering youth, women and vulnerable groups.

## Excitement Builds as Jammu hosts J&K Open 2024 Golf Tournament

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 21

The J&K Open Golf Tournament 2024, set to take place at the Jammu Tawi Golf Course from October 23-26, promises to be an exhilarating event featuring top golfers from India and abroad. Olympian Udayan Mane, who proudly represented India in the Olympics, will be joined by fellow Indian golf stars Shaurya Binu and Sachin Baisoya. This tournament is a significant milestone for Jammu city, showcasing its potential as a host for major sporting events and boosting local tourism.

The competition will also feature international talent, including expats such as N. Thangaraja and K. Prabakaran from Sri Lanka, Jamal Hossain and Badal Hossain from Bangladesh, Stepan Daniel from the Czech Republic, Subash Tamang from Nepal, Sukhraj Singh Gill from Canada, and American golfers Dominic Piccirillo and Digraj Singh Gill. Golf enthusiasts can look forward to a thrilling four days of competition and camaraderie among golfers representing their countries, further elevating Jammu's status on the sporting map.

## Mission YUVA: One-Day Capacity Building Program organized at Shopian

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 21

One-day capacity building program for stakeholder departments was organised today under the ambitious Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan) in the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat, Shopian by the District Employment & Counselling Centre, Shopian.

The program was inaugurated by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar.

Speaking on the occasion, DDC stressed upon all department heads to avail the opportunity of this Capacity Building program, for further motivating the people to register for the scheme and emphasised on conducting massive IEC activities for the larger benefits of the public. The DDC also enumerated the importance of entrepreneurship in focus and sunrise sectors spurred by the scheme for local economic growth and job creation.

The program com-



prised four sessions, during which speakers focused on the framework of Project YUVA, its implementation modalities and the roles and responsibilities of departments and stakeholders involved.

The day-long capacity building program focused on enhancing the knowledge of the YUVA scheme, aimed to support unemployed people to develop small enterprises, MSMEs, and the acceleration of existing enterprises.

Subject matter experts and resource persons

delivered insightful presentations on start-up incubation, business plan development and access to credit, interest subvention through different government initiatives.

The capacity building program concluded with an interactive Q&A session, where the participants had the chance to know about the scheme.

The program was also addressed by Nida Yousuf, AD Employment Department who enumerated the vital features of the Mission.

## DC Kathua chairs DAC meeting on PCPNDT Act

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, OCTOBER 21

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Dr. Rakesh Minhas chaired the District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting on the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act here today in the conference hall of DC Office complex.

The meeting focused on reviewing the Act's implementation across the district, with detailed discussions on the registration of ultrasound centres, as well as the provisions for offences, penalties, and the overall monitoring mechanism.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vijay Raina provided an update on the district's 15 ultrasound clinics, comprising 12 private centres and 3 government-run facilities. He also gave a detailed account on Block latest Child Sex Ratio data which stands at 912 girl child per 1000 male children, better than the



UT overall ratio of 890 but less than the National CSR.

DC emphasized the crucial role of the PCPNDT Act in promoting a healthy girl child sex ratio and directed strict enforcement through random inspections of ultrasound clinics. He called for adopting innovative means to further improve the Child Sex Ratio matching the National Average. He also advocated for the use of decoy operations to curb illegal sex determination practices.

The PCPNDT Act, passed by Parliament in 1994, aims to prevent female feticide and halt the declining sex ratio by banning prenatal sex determination.

The DAC approved the registration of a new private ultrasound centre in Bani and sanctioned the addition of a new ultrasound machine at the new building of Sharma Ultrasound and Imaging Centre, Kathua.

The meeting was attended by ASP Kathua, CMO, DAC members and special invitees.

## Traffic Police NHW launches Special drive against use of Pressure Horn in Ramban

JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, OCTOBER 21

Traffic Police, NHW Ramban, under the supervision of SSP (T) Rohit Baskotra have launched a special drive against traffic violators and booked 68 vehicles. Whopping Rs. 6.8 lakh fine was recovered from the violators. The aim of the special drive was to remove the pressure Horns from vehicles which is causing a great disturbance to the general public especially oldage persons, senior citizens, as well as, school going children etc.

The drivers and owners

of transport Unions have been asked to remove the Pressure Horns from their vehicles and follow the traffic rules properly.

The officer also appealed the commuters to follow Traffic rules and join hands to make the roads safe for all type of road users, right from pedestrian to motorists.

The People have been appealed to come forward to complain against visible traffic violations on traffic helpline numbers 9419993745-9906023617, Toll Free Number-18001807043 & TCU Udhampur-8491928625.

## DC flags-off Boys Trekking Team from Shopian



JI NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 21

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today flagged-off a group of boys of District Shopian for five (05) days trekking expedition from Mini Secretariat, Shopian.

The trekking camp, organized by District Youth Services and Sports Office, Shopian aims at promoting adventure sports and youth development. The said event will see participation of 78 boys from different Higher Secondary Schools of the

district. Addressing the gathering, DC emphasized the importance of such initiatives in fostering teamwork, discipline, and physical fitness among youngsters.

DYSSO Shopian on the occasion briefed about the trekking route, safety measures and activities planned for the camp.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by District Youth Services and Sports Officer and District Social Welfare Officer, other dignitaries/officials and trekking participants.

## Deputy Chief Minister condemns militant attack in Gagangeer, Ganderbal

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 21

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, has strongly condemned the militant attack happened in Gagangeer, Ganderbal district, here last evening.

Describing the heinous incident as an act of cowardice, the Deputy Chief Minister extended deepest condolences to the grieving families of the victims. He prayed for peace and strength to the bereaved families during this time of immense sorrow.

Surinder Choudhary wished for speedy recovery of those injured in the attack. "Such acts of terror will not deter our resolve for heralding peace and unity. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families," he maintained. The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated the government's determination to bring the perpetrators to justice and enhance security measures to prevent such incidents in the future.

## Police Commemoration Day: ADC Handwara pays tributes to the police martyrs at DPL Handwara

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, OCTOBER 21

In order to pay tributes to the martyrs and commemorate their sacrifices, National Police Day popularly known as 'Police Commemoration Day' was observed today at DPL Handwara.

Police personnel who sacrificed their lives for maintaining peace, law and order in the society were remembered and rich tributes were paid to them. Additional Deputy Commissioner Handwara, Aziz Ahmed Rather commending the sacrifices of martyr police personnel said that their sacrifices would never go waste. He said, "Police personnel have sacrificed their lives for maintaining peace, law & order in the society. We must always remember them and stand with the families of the martyrs."

## Shutdown for 33 KV Kupwara Old, HOT & MES Line rescheduled

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 21

The office of Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, today announced revised schedule of shutdown for 33 KV Kupwara Old, HOT and MES Line.

As per the schedule, in order to carry out branch cutting/repairing/maintenance work of subdivision Kupwara, the shutdown of 132/33KV Arampora Grid Station shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Krusen, Sogam, Machil, Khumriyal, Tikker, Galizoo, Drugmulla and MES shall remain affected.

Drugmulla and MES shall remain off on 24 October from 10:00 am to 04:00 pm instead of 19th October, while power supply to the Krusen, Sogam, Machil, Khumriyal, Tikker, Galizoo, Drugmulla and MES shall remain affected.

Meanwhile in a separate communication, the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL office has informed cancellation of shutdown of 33KV Cheshmahahi-Brein-Nishat-Shalimar-Harwan Line, which was scheduled for shutdown on 24th October, 2024.

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-TENDER NOTICE			
Tender Notice No.: 433-Sig-T-28-24-25 Closing Date/Time: 11-11-2024/15:00			
Date: 18/10/2024. Sr.DS/TE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India			
invites E-Tenders on https://www Ireps.gov.in against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-28-24-25 Closing Date/Time 11-11-2024 at 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.			
Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money <b>only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal</b> LIKE net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.			
NIT HEADER			
Contract Type	Works		
Name of Work	Telecom works in c/w (i) Provision of Passenger address system/Computer based announcement system at 121 stations over Firozpur division. (ii) Improvement of drawing branch and track planning cell at DRM office Firozpur.		
Tender Closing Date Time	11/11/2024 15:00	Date Time of Uploading Tender	18/10/2024 18:02
Advised Value Rs.	15186360.87	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	28/10/2024
Earnest Money (Rs.)	225900.00	Period of Completion	6 Months
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3248/2024			



## Sudershan Wazir thanks Omar for giving due representation to Jammu Region in Cabinet

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 21

S. Sudershan Singh Wazir Chairman Sikh United Front J&K and other Sikh organizations J&K have expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister of J&K UT Jenab Omar Abdullah for giving more than due representation to legislators belonging to Jammu region in the recent constitution of the cabinet.

While addressing a press conference of various Sikh Organizations Mr Wazir thanked people who have expressed their resounding faith in National Conference and the alliance during the recently held assembly elections and giving the befitting reply to those who were thriving in politics by creating a regional divide among the peace loving people of J&K. Mr Wazir complimented all those progressive thinking people who have voted decisively in favor of a secular alliance and have shown the door

to the communal forces. Adding further Mr Wazir said that people of Jammu look upon the new government headed by Jenab Omar Abdullah for redressal of their grievances especially the issues like unemployment, development of infrastructure, the plight of the government sector educational institutions, private sector of education, establishment of industry in J&K and also promote tourism in Jammu province apart from Kashmir which is considered to be a heaven on earth.

With regards to demands put forth by Sikh community during past few years Mr Wazir appealed to Honorable Chief Minister to immediately introduce Punjabi as an official language apart from the other specific issues like unemployment among the Sikh youth and also requested for expediting the permanent settlement issues of POJK refugees. Mr Wazir further said



that past few years have been the worst of times during which the common man has suffered in every sphere of life and business. He further expressed his confidence that the Honorable Chief Minister will also establish a Minority Commission in J&K as promised in the National Conference manifesto at the earliest.

Wazir assured the fullest cooperation of the Sikh community to the present government and demanded that union government should immediately fulfill its promise of restoring statehood to the J&K.

Wazir specifically requested government headed by Jenab Omar Abdullah to restore the Durbar move at the earliest so that the business activity and the communal divide between the regions gets diluted as creating a regional divide is the game plan of communal forces for their vested interests.

S. Mohinder Singh Chief Organizer Bhai Kanhiya Nishkam Sewa Society J&K and Ex member DGPC Jammu while addressing the media congratulated Jenab Omar Abdullah and Jenab Farooq Abdullah for their victory in assembly

elections and hoped for the early redressal of the plight of citizens of J&K especially smart meter issue and 200 units of free electricity as promised in the National Conference Manifesto.

S. Darbinder Singh President Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, said that the newly elected government should prioritize the health sector in J&K as lot of people from J&K move out to other states to get better medical facilities, so it's the obligation of the government to provide better healthcare facilities so that people don't have

to move out for their medical needs. The other sikh organisations and leaders who participated in the meeting are Smt. Kuldeep Kour President Istri Akali Dal J&K, S.Rajinder Singh Gen Sect. Shiromani Akali Dal, S. Ravinder Sarpanch Gen Sect. Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, S. Harpreet Singh Chhotu President Youth Akali Dal J&K, S. Surjeet Singh Kukoo Ex-President Sikh Naujawan Sabha, S. Manmohan Singh Chairman Gurdwara Singh Sabha Gole Gujral Jammu, S. Jagmohan Singh, President Gurdwara Sec-14 Nanak Nagar Jammu, S. Surinder Singh Dutt General Secretary Gurdwara Mata Gujral Kour Trikuta Nagar Jammu, S. Kulwant Singh, S. Kaltar Singh, S. Paramjeet Singh, S. Tejpal Singh, S. Charanveer Singh (Laad).

## Shankaracharya Avimukteshwarananda Saraswati Ji Maharaj arrives Jammu on a two-day visit

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 21



Shankaracharya of Uttar Peeth (Astrology) Avimukteshwarananda Saraswati Ji Maharaj reached Jammu on a two-day visit on Monday, during which in the evening he along with his 100 Sadhus reached the Darvar of Mata Bawe Wali and took the blessings of Mata. On his arrival in Jammu, JKPC Working President and former Minister Raman Bhalla welcomed him. As per press note, on Tuesday after 2 pm, Shankaracharya ji will give darshan to the devotees at the residence of Raman Bhalla ji and will enthrall the devotees with his sermons. Raman Bhalla has appealed to the followers to come for the darshan of Shankaracha-

rya on Tuesday to seek his blessings. Swami Avimukteshwarananda Saraswati is always active to protect Ganga and cows. When temples were demolished in Varanasi for the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, he protested against it. He fasted for a long time in 2008 to declare Ganga as the national river. When his health deteriorated, he was admitted to the hospital. He ended his fast on the instructions of his guru. With his inspiration, he studied till Acharya in the subject of Naval grammar in Sampurnanand Sanskrit University of Kashi.

## Dr. Shreyansh Jain holds Seminar on "International Archaeological Day"

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 21

On International Archaeological day, Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain State yoga Commissioner, held a Seminar, in which Abhinandan Jain, Vishal Jain, Parmod Jain, Jainender Jain, (Pinki) from different localities of Jammu, were present and shared their viewpoints.

Preserving Our Heritage, Honoring Our Identity.

International Archaeological Day is an annual event that celebrates the exploration, preservation, and understanding of the world's heritage. It reminds us of the profound connection between our past and our present, offering a glimpse into the historical threads that have woven the fabric of our identity. As we move forward in a rapidly evolving world, it becomes more important than ever to preserve the traditions,

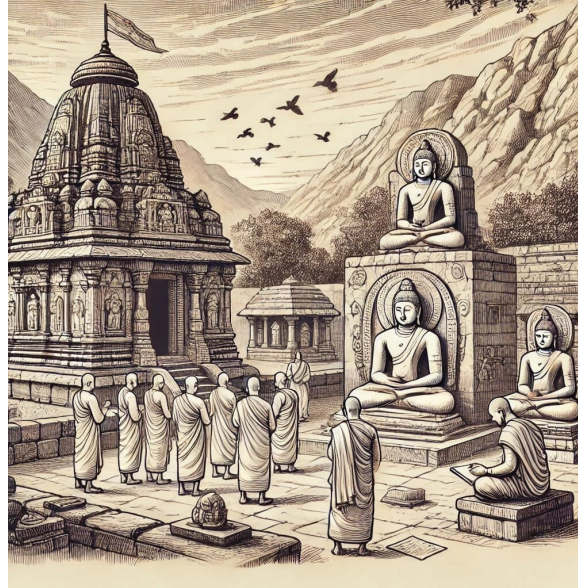
values, and historical landmarks that reflect who we are as a society. These cultural and archaeological treasures not only stand as testaments to our shared history but also serve as guiding lights for the future.

Our heritage is a powerful reflection of our history, culture, and values. The historical sites, artifacts, and traditions passed down through generations reveal the evolution of civilizations, their beliefs, and their way of life. As the world continues to change, it is our responsibility to ensure that the legacy of our ancestors is remembered and preserved for future generations. Historical monuments, ancient ruins, and cultural practices provide us with insights into the achievements, struggles, and wisdom of our forebears. They shape our sense of belonging and identity, offering a unique understanding of who we

are and where we come from.

Among the many threads of heritage that contribute to the world's cultural tapestry, JAIN heritage holds a special place. The JAIN tradition, with its rich contributions to spirituality, art, architecture, and non-violence, stands as a beacon of peace and human dignity. Jainism's philosophy of non-violence (Ahimsa) has been its greatest gift to the world, inspiring generations of leaders and individuals to seek harmony, respect for life, and compassion. This commitment to non-violence is intricately connected to their artistic and architectural achievements, reflected in the serene beauty of their temples, sculptures, and manuscripts.

Jain art and architecture offer stunning examples of craftsmanship and devotion. The intricate carvings, the grandeur of the Dilwara Temples, the



towering structures of Palitana, and the serene beauty of Gomateshwara (Bahubali) in Shravanabelagola are living tributes to a spiritual philosophy that values inner purity, peace, and harmony with nature. These monuments are more than just architectural marvels; they represent a way of life that seeks to

uplift the soul and inspire a more peaceful existence. Preserving Jain heritage is, therefore, not only about protecting beautiful monuments but also about safeguarding a legacy that teaches the world to value peace, compassion, and tolerance.

As we celebrate International Archaeological

Day, it is essential to recognize the broader significance of protecting these heritage sites. They are not relics of a bygone era; they are living histories that continue to influence our modern world. The lessons of the past, embodied in the traditions and monuments of cultures like Jainism, remind us of the importance of spirituality, ethical living, and respect for all life. These timeless values remain relevant even as we navigate the challenges of the present and future.

In conclusion, International Archaeological Day serves as a vital reminder to cherish and protect our cultural and historical heritage. As we honor our past, particularly the rich legacy of Jain heritage, we reaffirm our commitment to preserving the diversity and beauty of the human experience. By doing so, we ensure that future generations can learn from, appreciate, and be

inspired by the wisdom and artistry of their ancestors.

A vote of thanks was presented by Sh Abhinandan Jain, Financial Advisor VKMI & Retd Chief Manager SBI, and Sh Lal Singh Nag, Retd Dy Director & strong follower of Jain teachings, suggested that Government needs to be approached to take necessary steps to preserve Jain Temples, caves, Manuscripts and ancient Sculptures, these are not merely structures of stones & Art, they represent the timeless teachings of peace, Compassion and harmony with nature. Unfortunately, many of these sites are at risk due to urbanization, neglect, and a lack of awareness. Once lost, these priceless treasures can never be restored. S/ Sh Rajneesh Jain, Hiralal Jain, Sunil Jain and Ashok Gupta, Vice President Vichar Kranti Manch International also participated actively in the Seminar.

## Raksha Mantri & his Singaporean counterpart to hold 6th India-Singapore Defence Ministers' Dialogue in New Delhi

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 21

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and Minister of Defence, Singapore Dr Ng Eng Hen will co-chair the sixth India-Singapore Defence Ministers' Dialogue in New Delhi on October 22, 2024. The meeting aims to carry forward defence cooperation between the two countries. Both sides will also exchange views on regional and global issues of shared interest.

India and Singapore share a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The bilateral defence relations form a significant pillar to this collaboration. The engagements have diversified to include wide-ranging contacts between the Services, military-to-military exchanges, high-level visits, capacity building and training programmes, cooperation in UN Peacekeeping, ship visits and bilateral exercises.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### Lt Governor visits...

The Lt Governor offered his condolences and assured the family members that the terrorists responsible for the Martyrdom of Sh Shashi Abrol will be neutralized soon.

He also assured the family of all assistance and support from the administration. The entire nation stands in solidarity with the family of the martyr civilian in this hour of grief. Government will take care of the welfare, job and education of the next of kin, he said.

### LG visited SKIMS...

all the support to the affected families. The brutal and savage attack against construction workers will be avenged. I've asked the J&K Police, security forces to exact a price that will be remembered by the terrorists and their associates for time to come".

### LG directs immediate...

5 years of their gross CTC as compensation from insurance. All PRW labour and third-party employees are covered under workman compensation policy and accordingly financial assistance to be provided. Lieutenant Governor said, the Government and APCO Infratech company will ensure every possible financial assistance to the next of kin and other necessary support as required.

"Though it is an irreparable loss and cannot be compensated monetarily, we are taking concrete measures for the families of the martyr civilians so that they live a life of dignity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

### Lt Governor pays...

Their legacy will live on in our hearts. On this day, let us commit ourselves to uphold the values they stood for-courage, unity and service to the nation," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor lauded the unparalleled contribution of Jammu Kashmir Police and Security Forces in ensuring a safe and secure environment for the citizens. He paid his respect to the families of the martyrs, and reiterated his commitment towards the welfare of the Police personnel and their family members.

"Our promise to you and to the entire region is to

carry forward the legacy of peace and stability that our brave soldiers fought so hard to protect. Success of our Police, security forces in combating terrorism has brought normalcy to J&K paving the way for rapid development and economic growth," he said.

Speaking on the transformational journey of J&K under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Lt Governor urged every citizen to remain united and vigilant against forces that seek to disrupt peace and harmony.

"Peace and Stability has enabled smooth conduct of Parliamentary Elections, J&K Assembly polls and peaceful and successful conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. Now, it is time for all to leverage the dividends of this peace, especially the youth, who are the future of this region. Let us pledge to support our Police, Army and CAPFs as they continue to safeguard our safety and well-being," the Lt Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also asked the Police officials and personnel to constantly review and strengthen the mechanism for monitoring the crimes against women, children, weaker sections of the society and ensure strict action.

He further suggested for launching a dedicated campaign for a drug-free Jammu Kashmir, and paying special attention to the training and re-skilling to enhance awareness, capabilities and coordination among the police personnel for effective counter-terrorism operations.

Sh Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K read the names of brave hearts of Police who attained martyrdom during the year fighting crime and ensuring safety of the nation. The arms were reversed and a two-minute silence was observed to honour the Martyrs. The Lt Governor also visited the Blood Donation Camp organized to mark the occasion.

### GOC White Knight...

situation and operational readiness," White Knight Corps posted on X. It further posted, "The #GOC commended the alertness and dedication of our troops in ensuring peace and security in the region."

### Chief Minister pays...

Chief Minister led the gathering in offering floral

tributes to honor the sacrifices of the brave policemen.

Among the recently elected Members of the Legislative Assembly, Farooq Ahmad Shah, Sheikh Ahsan, Mushtaq Guru, and Rafiq Ahmad Naik, also participated in the tribute ceremony, laying floral wreaths at the memorial in recognition of the courage and dedication of the martyrs.

In addition to the Chief Minister, several senior officials were present to pay their respects, including Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police J&K Nalin Prabhat, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra, and Principal Secretary Home.

After the tribute ceremony, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited a blood donation camp set up as part of the event. He expressed his appreciation for the individuals who donated blood, commending their spirit of selflessness in contributing to the welfare of the community.

### Massive searches...

track down the terrorists," they said, adding that security forces have also deployed drones and sniffer dogs to comb through the nearby forests.

Top security officials are camping in Ganderbal to oversee the operation. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) team also reached Ganderbal to assist in the initial probe.

Militant group, The Resistance Front, believed to be the shadow group of Lashkar-e-Taiba, has purportedly claimed responsibility for the attack on the construction workers.

Police sources said that militants launched the attack on Sunday evening, targeting a camp set up by the infrastructure company building the 6.5 km Z-Morh tunnel near Gagangeer on the Srinagar-Sonamarg route. The Z-Morh tunnel, which is nearing completion, is one of two tunnels that will connect Ladakh with the outside world through an all-weather road.

Those killed in the attack include two from J&K, including a Kashmiri doctor, three from Bihar and one each from Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.

### CM Omar Abdullah...

legislators to work collectively so that the journey takes a smooth and steady pace for welfare of the

people. He said that the Omar Abdullah led government will take everyone along for steering Jammu and Kashmir towards new heights of peace, progress and prosperity. He also thanked all the concerned departments for making all the arrangements for smooth conduct of the oath ceremony.

The Pro-tem Speaker also announced that Omar Abdullah has vacated the Budgam assembly seat while retaining the Ganderbal constituency.

### Farooq Abdullah...

want friendship with India, they must stop this. Kashmir will not become Pakistan. It will not happen, it will not happen. Please allow us to live with dignity," Abdullah told reporters in Srinagar.

The National Conference president reminded that Pakistan initiated this aggression in 1947 by sending tribal invaders into Kashmir.

"You (Pakistan) killed innocent people then. Did Kashmir become part of Pakistan? It hasn't happened in the past 75 years, and it will not happen now," he said.

Abdullah advised Pakistan to focus on its own progress and development.

"We want to make our destiny. We want to get out of problems. We want to get rid of poverty here," he added.

The former chief minister noted that the attack would affect all of Kashmir.

When asked whether India should take action against Pakistan, Abdullah responded that he had no comment on the matter, as it was a decision for the central government.

He said that there can be no dialogue between India and Pakistan as long as innocent people continue to be killed.

### Chief Minister Omar...

to provide the best possible treatment and care to ensure their swift recovery. In his interaction with the families and attendants of the injured, Omar Abdullah reassured them of his support, encouraging them to reach out if they needed any additional help.

He emphasized the importance of ensuring that all necessary medical resources were made available to the patients.



## A Fest of Champions: IIT Jammu celebrates success of Convoquer 2024



JINNEWSERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 21

The Indian Institute of Jammu proudly hosted the Convoquer Sports Meet welcoming participants from 11 different universities and colleges across the region ready to compete with a never-seen-before athletic spirit and enthusiasm. The event, held on the college grounds, featured a diverse range of competitions including Football, Athletics, Basketball, Badminton, Chess, Cricket, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Pool, Weight Lifting and eSports.

The sports fest was from October 17th to October 21. The universities and colleges joining IIT Jammu in this awesome athletic endeavor were IIT Jammu, Jammu University, IIM Jammu, SMVDU Katra, AIIMS Jammu, GMC Jammu, GAMC Jammu, ASCOMS Jammu, MIET Jammu, Central University, GCET Jammu

The event kicked off with a vibrant opening ceremony attended by students, faculty and local dignitaries. The stage was



enticed with the marvelous melodies performed by the music club of IIT Jammu; Malang. Dr. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director of IIT Jammu, delivered an inspiring address, highlighting the importance of sports in the vicissitudes of student life. Dr. Gaur also expressed immense gratitude to the organizing committee, volunteers and participants for their invaluable diligence and enthusiasm. Participants and spectators alike expressed their pal-

table excitement for the event. Students shared their experience on social media, posting vibrant photos and highlights from the day. Feedback gathered post-event revealed a widespread appreciation for the meticulous organization and seamless execution, with many attendees advocating for similar gatherings in the future. The Convoquer Sports Event at IIT Jammu was not only a celebration of athletic talent but also a demonstration of com-

munity spirit and collaboration among educational institutions. The success of this year's event sets a promising foundation for future inter-college sports collaborations.

As the event concluded, participants left with not just medals and trophies but also memories of friendships forged and experiences shared. IIT Jammu looks forward to hosting more events that promote health, teamwork and the overall development of students.

## Vikram Singh Bhadwal condemned terror attack on minorities

JINNEWSERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 21

Today on 21-10-24 – Lok Janahakti Party (Ramvilas) General Secretary (Organisation) & Chairman JK Against Corruption Vikram Singh Bhadwal on Monday condemned the terror attack in Gagangir and appeals all to be united for a fight against Terrorism, Terrorists & expose those who are sympathisers of terrorists. Vikram Singh Bhadwal said that Pakistan always want to disturb the peace of Jammu & Kashmir as after abortion of article 370 J&K is witness with peace, lakhs of tourists throughout India visited Kashmir, People of Kashmir witnessed no Hartal, no stone pelting, no internet disconnected which is never digested by Pakistani's Terrorist. Hence they want to disturb the peaceful environment of J&K by distributing the



peace of J&K by creating terror attacks on locals as well as who are here to earn. Vikram Singh Bhadwal claimed that "This attack was very unfortunate. Immigrant poor labourers and a doctor lost their lives. What is fault of doctor who is on duty for serving people with his services, what is the fault of labour who are here to earn livelihood for their family. What will the terrorists get from this? My deepest condolences go out to the families of

the labourers, doctor who lost their lives. This tragic event is a reminder of the challenges and hardships faced by innocent people due to violence. May their souls rest in peace, and may those affected find strength during this difficult time. Vikram Singh Bhadwal Appeals Home Ministry to draw a final roadmap to eliminate roots of Terrorism from J&K. Our security forces are on hunt & very soon the terrorists will be eliminated.

## Indian Army conducts Vehicle Repairing Course for Youth at Kalakote, Rajouri

JINNEWSERVICE  
RAJOURI, OCT 21

To empower local youth with vocational skills, Indian Army has been conducting multiple courses over the years. The present cadre conducted under the ongoing Sadbhavana initiative, aimed to train the youth in vehicle repair. Participants are learning new things every day. The trainees comprised of youth hailing from the border areas and belonging to economically weaker sections of the society and the training will assist them in seeking employment in government and private sectors or setting up their own ventures. A felicitation ceremony organized on culmination of the cadre saw a large gathering of trainees, their instructors, family members and prominent members from the society. The audience hailed the efforts of the Indian Army towards empowerment of local youth and its positive impact on the development of the region. A total of 15 youth participated in the Vehicle Repairing Cadre.

## White Knight Corps conducts Wellness, Yoga Workshop for Army Persons, Families at Nagrota

JINNEWSERVICE  
NAGROTA, OCT 21

White Knight Corps of Indian Army has conducted a one-day wellness workshop by Mrs. Sowmya Upadhyaya, a renowned Wellness and Yoga Coach, at Nagrota Military Station. The workshop was focused on holistic living and combating lifestyle diseases, featuring a variety of activities aimed at promoting both physical and mental well-being of all Ranks in Nagrota. The workshop commenced with a Yoga session, in the morning highlighting specific postures designed to support healthy living and counter lifestyle disor-



ders. This was followed by a lecture-cum-workshop addressing the management of lifestyle diseases through simple kitchen remedies, along with stress and anxiety relief techniques, utilizing brain and chair yoga. This holistic programme provided practical solutions for

managing the health challenges posed by stressful environment. The event underscores the importance of natural wellness methods in achieving a balanced and healthy lifestyle. More than 200 serving persons and their families attended and benefited from the same.

### UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION REASI

#### SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. 29 of 2024-25 Dated 19-10-2024

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (₹ in lacs)	Cost of doct (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in Rs.₹)	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Construction Of Link Road From PMGSY Road Triuallagala To Bidgala Pouni Ransoo ( Under State Capex Budget. (L=1.00kms)	10.00	600/-	20040/-	3 Month	"B" "C" "D"
2.	Construction Of Building -Cum-Store And Compound Wall ( Horticulture Office) At Kambal Danga Reasi.	10.02	600/-	20000/-	3 Month	"B" "C" "D"

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

1	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	19-10-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 19-10-2024 to 02-11-2024, 1600 Hrs
4	Bid submission Start Date	19-10-2024
5	Bid Submission End Date	02-11-2024 up to 1600 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	04-11-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Reasi.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

Position of AAA: - **Accorded**  
Position of T. S: - **Accorded**  
Position of Funds: - **Demanded**

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

No:-3774-78  
Dated:- 19-10-2024

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

DIP/J-5910/24  
Date: 21-10-24

### UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL IRRIGATION CONST. DIVISION KRISHNA NAGAR, JAMMU.

#### Email: [xenmicdjm@gmail.com](mailto:xenmicdjm@gmail.com) NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

e-NIT NO. MICD/J/39 of 2024-25 Dated:19/10/2024 Due on:29/10/2024

Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division Krishna Nagar, Jammu, on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered firms/ reputed workshop owners doing similar nature of works having valid PAN No. and GST No. for below mentioned work. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover 'A' –Tender fee and Bid Security Declaration Form, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance to terms and conditions of the tender. Cover 'B' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S. no.	Name of Work	EMD	Performance Security	Cost of tender document	Period of completion	Validity of Rates	Position of Funds
1.	Repair of 225 Ampere auto starter cum fault analyzer cum protection control panel of Unit No II with allied works installed at LIS Seen Thakran in district Udhampur.	Rs.2000.00	3% of the contract value of L1	Rs.200.00	05 Days	120 days	Available

#### Key points of the tender

- Bidding documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from 19/10/2024 (05.00PM onwards).
- The Bid shall be deposited on the web site <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from 19/10/2024 (05.00PM onwards) to 29/10/2024 (Upto 12.00PM).
- The cover "A" containing Tender fee, Bid Security Declaration Form & prequalification/ technical bids shall be opened online on 29/10/2024 (02.00PM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Jammu. In case of holiday or if the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of Cover 'A' the same shall be opened on the next working day or any other convenient day.
- Cover B containing the financial bids in the prescribed BOQ shall be opened after evaluation of the opened technical bids.
- Bids must be accompanied with EMD that should be pledged in favour of Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division Jammu in the form of CDR/FDR and shall have to be valid for 120 days along with scanned copy of the cost of tender document as mentioned in the e NIT (Notice Inviting Tender). The cost of downloaded tender document shall be in the form of treasury challan favouring Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Jammu by crediting the requisite charge to MH: 0702 (Revenue). The firm claiming any discount/rebate shall attach the relevant supporting document/certificate to the effect. **Moreover the original documents i.e.(EMD, tender fee and other documents) should be submitted by hand, post or courier to this office before the due date of opening of cover A i.e: 29/10/2024 (02.00PM). Failing which the tender of the firm will not be opened.**
- The complete bidding process will be ONLINE.
- Lowest bidder** will submit the performance security in the shape of Bank Guarantee/CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank equal to 3% of the contract value in addition to the EMD amount along with Tender fee and other relevant documents after opening of financial bid online within 3 days. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office. In case the original documents are not submitted by the lowest bidders after opening of financial bid, the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further tendering process in the division.
- The original documents submitted by the L1 should be the same as uploaded online (scanned copies).
- The bids shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period, makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid the earnest money shall stand forfeited.
- All other terms and conditions can be downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>.
- The bidder is advised to visit the site. The bidder should be well versed with the site conditions, distance, head load and other related difficulties to be faced during execution of work.

No: MICD/J/1055-1057  
Dated:-19-10-2024

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Mech. Irri. Construction Division  
Jammu

DIP/J-594/24  
Date: 21-10-24



## EDITORIAL

## NC's strategic political maneuvering

The recent political developments in Ladakh, marked by the National Conference's (NC) "dramatic exit" from its alliance with the Congress, reflect the intricate dynamics of regional politics as we approach the upcoming Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The NC's swift reversal of its earlier stance, culminating in the reintegration of key leaders from Ladakh, highlights both the volatility of political alliances and the strategic maneuvers that define electoral success in this unique region. The backdrop of this political shift is the recent Lok Sabha elections, where the NC's Haji Hanifa Jan triumphed decisively over Congress's Tsering Namgyal, reclaiming Ladakh's parliamentary seat that had been previously dominated by the BJP. The margin of victory—27,906 votes—underscores a significant swing in voter sentiment, further amplified by the united front presented by local political figures from Kargil who rallied behind Jan. This coalition, aimed at ensuring representation for Kargil's often-overlooked concerns, illustrates the critical role of local alliances in influencing electoral outcomes. The NC's mass resignations from the Ladakh unit in May, protesting the allocation of the region's sole parliamentary seat to Congress, created ripples throughout the political landscape. These resignations were not merely a show of discontent but a clarion call highlighting the complexities of party loyalties and the sensitivities of regional representation. The return of these leaders without conditions signals a reconciliation, yet it also raises questions about the future direction of party strategies in a rapidly evolving political context. Historically, this situation echoes previous instances, notably the 2009 elections when rebel candidate Ghulam Hassan Khan, backed by the NC's Kargil unit and influential religious bodies, successfully defeated the NC-Congress alliance's official candidate. Such patterns of defiance and the emergence of independent candidates underscore the importance of local support and the unpredictable nature of Ladakhi politics. The recent electoral success of Hanifa Jan reinforces this notion, suggesting that grassroots movements and local endorsements can significantly alter the course of traditional party politics. As the NC consolidates its position, the implications for the Congress party cannot be ignored. The loss of the Ladakh seat, particularly under the banner of a joint alliance, raises critical questions about Congress's strategy in the region. While the NC may celebrate its regained strength with three members in the Lok Sabha, Congress must introspect and recalibrate its approach to maintain relevance in a territory that demands nuanced understanding and responsive governance. The path ahead will undoubtedly be challenging. With the Assembly elections on the horizon, the NC's leadership, particularly Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, must navigate the expectations of their electorate while addressing the underlying issues that continue to affect Ladakh. Ensuring that the voices of both Kargil and Leh are heard and represented will be vital in fostering a sense of unity and progress. The dynamics in Ladakh remind us that political allegiances are often fluid, shaped by local sentiments and immediate needs rather than long-standing affiliations. The NC's recent actions may have bolstered its parliamentary presence, but the true test lies ahead. With a complex interplay of history, identity, and political ambition at stake, the upcoming Assembly elections will be pivotal in determining the future trajectory of governance in Ladakh. The region's leaders must not only seek electoral success but also strive to build a legacy of trust and collaboration that resonates with the aspirations of their constituents.

## Indian immigrants to Canada bear brunt of diplomatic row

KSTOMAR

The fallout of the current diplomatic tensions between India and Canada, particularly in the wake of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's accusations and expulsions of diplomats by both countries, could have significant consequences for Indian citizens working, studying, or planning to immigrate to Canada. Trudeau's Liberal Party has been facing declining support, and his minority government has been kept afloat by the New Democratic Party (NDP), led by Jagmeet Singh, a prominent Sikh politician.

The NDP's support base includes a significant portion of Canada's Sikh population, and Trudeau may be attempting to retain their support by taking a tough stance against India, which is perceived by some Sikhs in Canada as being hostile to their interests. The deteriorating relations between the two countries may affect several key areas:

**Impact on Indian Workers in Canada:** Indian Workforce in Canada: Indians form a significant part of Canada's skilled workforce, especially in sectors like IT, healthcare, engineering and finance. Over the years, Canada has become a top destination for experienced professionals from India due to its immigration-friendly policies. Visa and Work Permit Issues: While the immediate impact on Indian workers in Canada has been limited, any prolonged diplomatic standoff could lead to delays in the processing of work per-

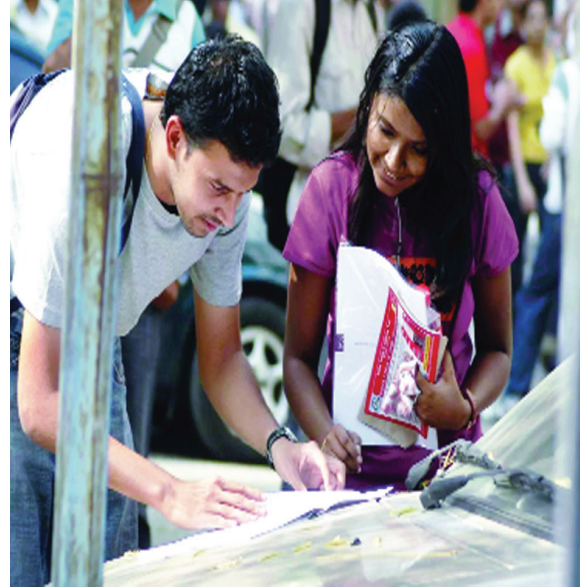
mits, visa renewals and permanent residency (PR) applications. The processing times might increase, and stricter scrutiny could be imposed.

Uncertainty for Future Migrants: Potential immigrants or those awaiting work permits may face hurdles in terms of visa approvals. If relations continue to sour, Canada might impose tighter immigration controls on Indian workers, which could hamper the flow of professionals into the country.

**Impact on Indian Students in Canada:**

There is large Indian Student Population in Canada as it has become a major destination for Indian students, with nearly 320,000 Indian students enrolled in Canadian universities as of 2023. The country's world-class education system, relatively easier immigration pathways post-graduation, and diverse work opportunities have made it attractive for Indian students.

**Visa Delays:** The current diplomatic tension may lead to delays in student visa approvals or increased scrutiny of applications. While there is no immediate indication that Indian students will face outright rejections, the uncertainty could cause stress and delays in admission procedures, particularly for new applicants. **Post-Graduation Work Opportunities:** Many Indian students stay in Canada after completing their studies under post-graduation work permits (PGWP) and eventually apply for permanent residency.



The growing tension could complicate this process, making it harder for students to transition smoothly from education to employment.

**Impact on Immigration Pathways:** Canada's Express Entry programme, which has been highly favourable for Indian professionals and students seeking permanent residency, might slow down or become more stringent if the diplomatic rift deepens.

There could be longer processing times, more rigorous background checks, and even potential policy changes affecting Indian applicants.

**Family Reunification:** Indian citizens who have family members in Canada and are in the process of family reunification (sponsorship programmes) could face delays in their applications due to the diplomatic standoff. **Trade and Bilateral Agreements:** Professional Mobility: If diplomatic tensions continue, professional

exchanges, joint ventures, and corporate partnerships involving Indian and Canadian companies might slow down. This could reduce job opportunities for Indian professionals working for Canadian companies in sectors like IT, telecommunications, and consulting. **Impact on New Immigration Streams:** The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which India and Canada had been discussing, could be put on hold.

This would affect initiatives meant to streamline immigration for Indian professionals and create pathways for smoother trade and employment relations.

**Solutions to Mitigate the Fallout:** Diplomatic Resolution: The most effective way to mitigate the fallout is through diplomatic dialogue. Both governments must find common ground and work towards de-escalation. Diplomatic channels should prioritise resolving misunderstand-

ings while protecting the interests of citizens on both sides. Temporary Shift to Alternative Countries: While waiting for the situation to stabilise, students and professionals might consider alternative countries such as the UK, Australia, or Germany, which offer similar educational and work opportunities for Indian nationals.

**Vote Bank Politics and the Sikh Community's Role in Canada:** Canada has one of the largest Sikh populations outside of India, with an estimated 770,000 Sikhs, making up about 2 per cent of the total Canadian population.

Many of these Sikhs are concentrated in electoral districts in British Columbia, Ontario, and Alberta. In some constituencies, Sikhs represent a significant voting bloc, which can influence election outcomes.

**Upcoming Elections:** With elections expected by 2025, Trudeau needs to consolidate his support among key communities. Given the current minority government status, he must rely on alliances, such as with the NDP, and maintain his standing in immigrant-rich constituencies, including those dominated by Sikhs.

His recent diplomatic actions appear designed to shore up this support by aligning himself with issues important to these groups. The Sikh community has historically supported the Liberal Party, particularly under Trudeau. Many high-profile Sikh leaders, including ministers in his cabinet, are from this community.

Thus, maintaining their

support is crucial for the Liberal Party's prospects in the next election. **Khalistan Issue:** While not all Sikhs in Canada support the Khalistan movement, those who do have formed influential advocacy groups that have pushed the issue into Canadian politics. Trudeau's overtures to this section of the electorate have been interpreted as efforts to protect his vote base, especially as his government faces increasing political pressure ahead of future elections.

Experts say that Trudeau may also be positioning himself as a defender of Canadian sovereignty by alleging foreign interference, a move that could resonate with voters concerned about national security.

This fits with broader concerns in the West about foreign interference in domestic politics, even though India has categorically denied the allegations.

India-Canada ties are indeed at their lowest ebb following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's accusation that Indian agents were involved in the killing of Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil.

This extreme diplomatic move, which has severely strained relations between the two countries, is seen as a combination of vote bank politics and Trudeau's handling of domestic pressures, especially in light of upcoming elections.

(Writer is a strategic columnist; views are personal)

## The art of saying no

SAKSHI SETHI

In the modern workplace, professionals are often expected to handle a variety of tasks and responsibilities, making it easy to become overwhelmed. While many employees adopt a yes-boss mentality to stay in good favour or advance their careers, the ability to say no can be just as important. Learning to decline certain requests, combined with the effective use of delegation, is the key to managing time, preserving mental well-being and ensuring tasks that are completed efficiently and effectively. Looking at today's fast-paced and highly compet-

itive work environment, learning to say no can be one of the most valuable skills for any professional. While the workplace often rewards the individual with a can-do attitude but the ability to refuse certain tasks or requests is equally essential to maintain productivity, well-being and professional integrity.

There is often an underlying fear of being seen as uncooperative, damaging relationships with colleagues, or missing out on future opportunities.

The result of this is an overloaded schedule, which can lead to decreased productivity, poor work quality and even burnout. It can negatively impact both the

individual and the organisation, as overstretched employees may struggle to meet deadlines or produce substandard work. The ability to refuse is not just about rejecting requests rather it's about setting boundaries that protect one's time and energy, ensuring that the most important tasks get the attention they deserve. Saying no to unnecessary or low-priority tasks allows professionals to focus on higher-value work, leading to better outcomes, a stronger contribution to the organisation and helps prevent individuals to maintain focus on their core responsibilities. Despite its clear benefits, saying a no is often easier

said than done. Many employees find it difficult to refuse tasks due to cultural or organisational pressures that equate being helpful with taking on as much work as possible. Some even fear that saying no could label them as difficult or unwilling to be a team player, leading to missed promotions or opportunities.

Moreover, individuals often grapple with personal barriers to saying no. Perfectionism, fear of conflict or a desire to please others can make it hard to set boundaries resulting in employees worrying that a simple refusal to additional tasks reflects their inability or lack of dedication towards the job. But

in reality, saying no in the workplace brings several important benefits, both for the individual and the organisation.

Effective delegation can offer a constructive alternative when refusing a task outright is not an option for it allows work to be distributed across a team, which can increase overall productivity, help build confidence and foster a sense of ownership and responsibility within the team. It even helps concentrate on strategic tasks and high-priority responsibilities that require their attention and most importantly demonstrates trust in the abilities of individuals, which can improve team morale and

encourage a more collaborative working environment.

While learning to say no and delegating effectively are two critical skills for success in the workplace. Saying no helps protect time and energy for the most important tasks, while delegation allows leaders to distribute work more effectively and empower others. By mastering the art of saying no and delegating, professionals can not only manage their workloads but also foster a more efficient and empowered team.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

## India's strides towards the design and component ecosystem in telecom

SP KOCHHAR

The telecommunications sector in India has grown to become the world's second-largest, contributing around 6.5 per cent to the nation's GDP and emerging as a key economic growth engine. While we take pride in this impressive growth, there is something even more exciting - the rise of the telecom manufacturing ecosystem. India's growth as a telecom equipment manufacturing destination can be attributed to the 'Make-in-India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives launched by the Government in recent years.

The Production Linked Incentives (PLI), launched in 2020, and its subsequent amendments in 2022 to facilitate design-led manufacturing at an additional incentive rate with an allocated sum of Rs 4,000 crores also pro-

vided a major boost to telecom manufacturing in India.

As per the latest update by the Ministry of Communications, sales of telecom equipment have surpassed the Rs 50,000 crore milestone under the PLI scheme, with exports at about Rs 10,500 crore. During this period, India exported mobile phones worth Rs 1.28 lakh crores and with 300 million units produced, it has emerged as the second-largest producer of mobile phones in the world.

On the telecom equipment front, India has become almost self-reliant in antennae, Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) and Customer Premises Equipment (CPE). As a result, India's status has turned from importing telecom equipment worth Rs 74,116.21 crore in FY 13-14 to exporting equipment worth over Rs 1.49 lakh crore in FY

23-24.

Though we are still importing certain products, the gap between imports and exports has gone down significantly. Apart from fostering self-reliance, indigenous manufacturing of telecom equipment also addresses the national security concerns associated with telecom imports.

Manufacturing has emerged as an important aspect of the telecom sector's contribution to the GDP through the creation of substantial employment opportunities across the value chain, from manufacturing to research and development.

So far, telecom manufacturing has created more than 17,800 direct jobs and several indirect jobs. The Indian telecom industry is likely to attract investments in the areas of core competency and cutting-edge technologies; ensure efficiencies and create



economies of scale, in turn, enhancing exports and making India an integral part of the global value chain. Government's Push for 'Atmanirbhar' Under the government's 'Atmanirbharta Abhiyan', the Department of Telecom (DoT) aims to promote the ecosystem

for research and development, transforming India into a global hub of technology development and telecom equipment manufacturing.

The Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia recently announced the Government's ambitions to set up telecommunication equip-

ment manufacturing zones as the country expects more inflow of foreign direct investments (FDI).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi too emphasised the need for "Design for the World", calling for indigenous design capabilities and urging the citizens to

create products that cater to both domestic and international markets. The Government has further established several task forces to ensure the smooth functioning of the telecom ecosystem.

These include initiatives for creating a component ecosystem, developing telecom chips from design to production, training skilled workers and designers, aggregating the demand for manufacturing from different departments and allocating them to eligible manufacturers, and optimising the use of test beds for product testing and certification. Following the Government's decision to allow 100 per cent FDI in telecom, the sector has attracted USD 39 billion in FDI for manufacturing, further boosting the momentum and solidifying India's role as a global telecom manufacturing hub.

Thanks to these con-

certed efforts, India has been able to bring down the trade deficit in telecom from Rs 68,000 crores to Rs 4,000 crores, over the last five years.

Focus on design and creation of IP is crucial to fulfilling India's ambitions as a product nation as design elements add substantial value to products. To build a strong ecosystem for 5G, DoT has sanctioned 17 companies under design-led manufacturing within the PLI scheme.

Further, global telecom equipment manufacturers like Cisco and Nokia have set up their manufacturing units in India, fostering world-class manufacturing prowess. These efforts, among others, emerge as a testament to the country's indigenous engineering and entrepreneurial capabilities, as well as manufacturing prowess.

(The writer is Director General, COAI; views are personal)



# India at the forefront of leading the 'double AI' revolution: Suneeta Reddy

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 21

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting India has a 'double AI' advantage with the power of 'Aspirational India' and 'Artificial Intelligence' combining, Apollo Hospitals Managing Director, Suneeta Reddy on Monday said that India is at the forefront of being able to lead this revolution.

In the era of Artificial Intelligence, India is powered by another AI - Aspirational India - which accelerates the country's growth, PM Modi said



on Monday at the NDTV World Summit. PM Modi said that in the Artificial Intelligence mission started this year, India will increase the use of the technology in every sector.

Talking to IANS, Suneeta Reddy said: "PM Modi spoke very well at the Summit. He talked about Artificial Intelligence and Aspirational Intelligence. I think India is at the forefront of being able to

lead this revolution. But, I want to add one more dimension which is in our favour that is Human Intelligence."

"We have a workforce, but there is a need to skill up. Skilling up our workforce will help us in becoming the third largest economy in the world which is our aspiration in the next 10 years," she added.

The Managing Director of Apollo Hospitals asserted that under the leadership of PM Modi, there has been rapid growth in the manufacturing sector.

"India is leading on the

path of development as the manufacturing and exporting has improved. We are now exporting services to the world. I think that we will continue to improve in every field and will surely contribute to the world," she stated.

She further claimed that in India we have the largest Global Capability Centres (GCC), especially in the South.

"We are global capability providers to the world. I am sure there is so much in terms of reinventing technology and providing health care facilities to the world," she said.

# Bangladesh dengue cases near 50k with 247 deaths

AGENCIES  
DHAKA, OCT 21

Bangladesh has logged 84 dengue-related deaths in October, representing the highest monthly death toll due to dengue this year, out of 49,880 confirmed cases as of Sunday.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported 1,298 new confirmed cases of dengue in the last 24 hours till 8:00 a.m. local time Sunday, raising this month's total tally to 18,942.

The DGHS confirmed another six deaths on Sunday, bringing the total fatalities due to dengue in the Southeast Asian



country to 247 so far this year.

According to the DGHS, the deaths included 80 in September, 27 in August, 12 in July and eight in June. In order to curb the further spread of dengue, Bangladeshi health authorities have strengthened measures

to check the breeding of mosquitoes and conduct anti-larval operations.

Bangladesh logged 1,705 dengue-related deaths in 2023, marking the highest annual death toll.

In comparison, there were 281 dengue-related deaths reported in 2022 and 179 in 2019.

# SOUTH KOREA, WHO TO HOST WORLD BIO SUMMIT NEXT MONTH

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, OCT 21

The health ministry here said on Monday it plans to co-host an annual biotechnology convention next month with the World Health Organization (WHO), bringing experts together to discuss strategies for a stable global healthcare supply chain.

Under the theme "Future investment for a healthy and secure decade," the World Bio Summit 2024 will kick off in Incheon, west of Seoul, on November 11-12, according to the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

"The World Bio Summit 2024 will serve as a venue for discussions to address and prepare for global health care threats," Health Minister Cho Kyoo-hong said, reports Yonhap



news agency.

The event, marking the third of its kind, will invite health ministers and other senior officials from governments, businesses and global organisations to discuss pressing issues in the vaccine and biotechnology sectors.

"Participants will exchange the latest trends in areas such as innova-

tive research and development, strengthening global supply chains and enhancing biotechnology capabilities, while exploring ways to expand global cooperation," the ministry said.

On the sidelines of the gathering, the Asian Development Bank, the International Vaccine Institute and other major organisa-

tions plan to participate in seminars and other events, it added.

The health ministry will also host the Global Business Lounge during the summit to expand South Korean health care companies' global cooperation.

Meanwhile, according to the WHO, increased investment is urgently needed to address evolving health risks and meet the mental and sexual and reproductive health needs for the nearly 1.3 billion adolescents (aged 10-19 years) globally.

"Promoting and protecting the health and rights of young people is essential to building a better future for our world," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, recently.

# Zomato's CEO Deepinder Goyal launches health, wellness startup 'Continue'

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 21

Zomato co-founder and chief executive Deepinder Goyal has launched a new venture called Continue in his personal capacity, focused on health tracking and mental wellness.

Incorporated in April this year under the name Upslope Advisors, the firm counts Deepinder Goyal—who is the majority stakeholder—and former Zomato and Blinkit executive Ashish Goel as directors.

Goyal has invested as much as Rs 50 lakh in the company, filings with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) showed.

"It is, as of now, my personal health and

wellness team, entirely funded by me, which tracks and researches how to keep me running at my peak performance. Spending time with the Continue team is like going to the gym for me. Or you can also say that it helps me avoid visits to doctors," Goyal wrote in a post on social media platform X.

The venture is still in its early stages. The domain Continue.com, touted as "The Ultimate Health Tracker", does not currently furnish any further details.

"We are developing new things, we have some new insights, and it will be super cool if one day, we are able to gather enough evidence behind what we have found, to share with the world,"

the billionaire founder added.

Goyal, who has long expressed interest in health and wellness, has previously invested \$10 million in Alpha Wave-backed Ultrahuman—a startup that makes health tracking wearables. Notably, Zomato also announced the appointment of a chief fitness officer for the company last year.

This comes at a time when Zomato has been focusing on diversifying. The company recently acquired Paytm Insider to launch its own live events and ticketing business District.

The company now operates its core food delivery business, quick commerce arm Blinkit, business-to-business (B2B) vertical Hyperpure,

and District.

The company is now considering raising funds through a qualified institutions placement (QIP), as its Bengaluru-based rival Swiggy is headed for an initial public offering (IPO).

Zomato reported a consolidated profit of Rs 253 crore in Q1 FY25, up from Rs 175 crore a quarter ago and Rs 2 crore in the year-ago period. The firm's revenue from operations rose 74 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to Rs 4,206 crore in Q1, up from Rs 2,416 crore a year ago.

Its food delivery business is already profitable, and senior management at the firm has indicated that its quick commerce arm Blinkit is also close to breaking even.

# Hyd: Fernandez Hospital Educational and Research organizes symposium

AGENCIES  
HYDERABAD, OCT 21

Fernandez Hospital Educational and Research Foundation (FHERD) organised a symposium on advanced gynaecological ultrasound titled "Ultrasonography of the Adnexa and Endometrium: Optimising Diagnosis in Everyday Practice" here on Sunday.

The event was facilitated by Dr Mala Sibal, a renowned expert in gynaecological ultrasound, and focused on how modern ultrasound techniques are transforming the diagnosis and treatment of gynaecological conditions.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sibal said, "Ultrasound is the diagnostic modality of choice in

gynaecology, including detecting gynaecological cancers. Despite advances in ultrasound technology, emerging literature in the field, and the tremendous impact of accurate and early diagnosis on appropriate medical management, quality ultrasound services are still scarce in many parts of the world. There is significant potential for its expanded use in improving women's healthcare both nationally and globally—a goal that can be achieved through dedicated teaching, training, and knowledge sharing, which was the key objectives of today's symposium." Over 200 practising gynaecologists, radiologists, pathologists, postgraduates in obstetrics and gynaecology, and

trainees in gynaecological ultrasound attended the program from across India.

The symposium highlighted the importance of using ultrasound to differentiate between benign and malignant growths.

Specialists discussed how specific markers, visible on ultrasounds, can indicate whether a mass is likely to be cancerous. This level of detail helps doctors make faster, more accurate diagnoses, reducing the need for more invasive procedures.

Case study-based panel discussion and interactive sessions also explored how ultrasound can aid in managing common gynaecological disorders and support minimally invasive surgeries.

# Black, Asian trauma patients less likely to get lifesaving chopper transport: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK, OCT 21

Severely-injured Black, Asian and Hispanic children and adults are less likely than white patients to receive critical helicopter ambulance services, which can make the difference between life and death, according to a study on Sunday.

It is the first such study to highlight disparities in the use of helicopter ambulance transport after severe trauma.

Overall, white adults were twice as likely to be air transported compared to Black adults, 13.5 per cent of Asian adults and 15.9 per cent of Hispanic adults.

White children were 50



per cent more likely to be air transported compared to Black children, 22.4 per cent of Asian children and 24 per cent of Hispanic children.

"Severely injured patients are more likely to survive if they get the right care within the 'golden hour,' the critical first

hour after the trauma," said Christian Mpody, lead author of the study at Montefiore Medical Center, New York.

The reality is that current efforts to expand helicopter ambulance programmes have yet to result in equitable care for patients of different races

and ethnicities," Mpody added.

Usually, the decision to dispatch helicopter transport is based on the information received about the patient during the 911 call.

A priority level is then assigned along with a response to dispatch air or ground emergency medical services (EMS) transport.

Additionally, non-medical factors can influence the decision, such as weather conditions and the availability of a helicopter, but race and ethnicity should not be among them, said Dr Mpody.

Researchers assessed hospital transport records for 307,589 adults and 42,812 children who had

a severe life-threatening injury and required urgent surgery or ICU admission between 2017 and 2022.

Overall, they found transport via helicopter ambulance was associated with a statistically significant higher rate of survival: 82.4 per cent of patients transported by helicopter ambulance survived compared to 80.6 per cent of those transported by ground ambulance.

They also found statistically significant evidence that race and ethnicity play a role in whether a trauma patient received helicopter transport—particularly among Black patients—and determined that the numbers didn't improve over the five years of the study.

# Jan Aushadhi outlets generating job avenues, providing medicines at discounted rates

AGENCIES  
GHAZIABAD, OCT 21

The opening of PM Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Ghaziabad have been receiving good response from the people. While interacting with IANS, many people said that they are now getting cheap and beneficial medicines easily, helping them to keep health-related problems away. Most of the people submitted that previously, they were unable to take care of the treatment part properly due to the high cost of the medicines. However,

through Jan Aushadhi outlets, they are now able to purchase medicines at affordable prices.

Nishant, the owner of a Jan Aushadhi Kendra, told IANS: "After opening the medical store, I have been able to provide employment to 4-5 persons. Besides, we have also helped others to open Jan Aushadhi centres at many places. People come here to work. I teach them as well, and help them to open their own stores"

"People get 40-90 per cent discount on the medicines they purchase from here. It is a very good proj-

ect of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Once, some people even used to sell their houses and land for medicine. Now, they are relieved after having the option of buying medicine from here." Mohan, a customer, told IANS: "I regularly buy medicines related to blood pressure and heart disease from here. Compared to other medical stores, we get massive discounts on medicine here. For instance, the medicine I used to buy earlier from the regular medical stores for Rs 70 is available at Jan Aushadhi Kendra for Rs 15."

Another customer, N.B. Joshi, said: "I have come here to buy medicine for blood sugar and gastric related issues. I have been buying medicines from here for a long time and, on an average, I save 80-90 per cent compared to other medical stores when I buy medicines from here. Also, the medicines available here and in other stores have the same efficacy and quality. And this has come as a major relief, especially for the underprivileged people."

"In this era of inflation, you can keep yourself

healthy by buying medicines at cheaper rates from here. Those who laid the foundation of this scheme have done great public welfare and this is a kind of public service."

Joshi further said that the opening of a Jan Aushadhi centre also comes with the potential of generating revenues.

"These stores should also be opened in small villages and towns so that the benefits of this scheme can reach the common people. Many people in the country are not even aware of this scheme," he said.

# Omega hospitals launch State-of-the-Art Colostomy Care Clinic

AGENCIES  
GUNTUR OCT 21

Omega Hospitals, a leading name in healthcare here, announces the launch of its new Colostomy Care Clinic and Pain Management Center.

This innovative facility aims to deliver comprehensive and specialized care for patients dealing with colostomies and chronic pain issues, underscoring the hospital's commitment to providing patient-centered, high-quality healthcare that meets the diverse needs of the community.

The Colostomy Care Clinic and Pain Manage-

ment Center is a significant step forward in enhancing patient care, offering advanced support for individuals managing complex health challenges. The clinic will focus on empowering patients with personalized colostomy care solutions while managing chronic pain conditions through cutting-edge treatments and compassionate service. A Dedicated Team of Experts Staffed with a highly skilled team of medical professionals, the new center will be led by top experts in oncology, including specialists in Surgical, Medical, and Radiation

Oncology, Interventional Pain Physicians, and other healthcare professionals such as Pathologists and Radiologists. The clinic will combine expertise across multiple disciplines to ensure patients receive the most comprehensive care possible. Speaking about the launch, Dr. M.G. Naga Kishore, M.S., M.Ch (Chief Surgical Oncologist) said, "By bringing together specialists in colostomy care and pain management under one roof, we aim to improve the quality of life for our patients who are managing these critical health challenges."



# India-China breakthrough: LAC patrol pact enables disengagement ahead of PM Modi's BRICS engagement

AGENCIES  
DELHI, OCT 21

In a major breakthrough ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip to Russia for the BRICS summit, India and China have established arrangements for patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Himalayas, which could lead to "disengagement" and resolving the tensions that began in May 2020 with the bloody border clash, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misra announced on Monday.

"These talks have resulted in an agreement on patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas leading to disengagement and a resolution of the issues that had risen in these areas in 2020," he said at a press conference.

PM Modi is leaving for Russia on Tuesday to participate in the BRICS summit, at the invitation of President Vladimir



Putin, and this development has come just hours ahead of the trip.

The agreement is believed to focus on patrolling in the Depsang and Demchok regions, official sources said.

The Foreign Secretary stated that diplomatic and military negotiators from India and China have engaged in several rounds

of discussions over the past few weeks, and these talks have culminated in an agreement on these issues.

It is anticipated that Prime Minister Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping could hold a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS summit - the first where new members Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and

the UAE, join existing members Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. However, there is no official confirmation of such a meeting. The most recent meeting of the working mechanism for consultation and coordination on India-China border affairs took place on August 29 in Beijing. Both sides engaged in a

frank and constructive exchange of views regarding the situation along the LAC. The purpose was to bridge differences and expedite the resolution of outstanding issues.

It was agreed that restoring peace and tranquility, as well as respecting the LAC, are essential for normalising bilateral relations. Indian and Chinese military leaders have been meeting regularly to pursue complete disengagement in the remaining areas along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, viewing this as crucial for restoring peace and tranquillity in the border regions.

India and China relations became tense following the violent border clashes in 2020 in Eastern Ladakh, resulting in the death of about 20 Indian soldiers and more than 20 fatalities in the Chinese PLA. Despite several rounds of talks at the military and diplomatic levels, a solution had remained elusive so far.

## Dynasty, legacy, and family ties continue to dominate electoral landscape of Jharkhand

AGENCIES  
RANCHI, OCT 21

Dynastic politics and family legacies are once again at the forefront in the Jharkhand Assembly elections. Nepotism continues to overshadow dedication, loyalty, and grassroots efforts when it comes to ticket distribution across political parties and alliances in the state.

The NDA has announced candidates for 77 of the 81 seats in the state, while the INDIA bloc has yet to officially release its candidates list. However, many of the names circulating reveal that roughly 50 per cent of the seats will be contested by individuals from political families.

Leading the trend is Chief Minister Hemant Soren of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), who is carrying on the legacy of his father, Shibu Soren, and will contest from the Barhait seat. His wife, Kalpana Soren, is running from Gandey, and Basant Soren, brother of Hemant Soren, will contest from Dumka. Other notable family ties include Sita Soren, Hemant Soren's sister-in-law, who has switched alliances and is

contesting on a BJP ticket from Jamtara.

Sita Soren, previously elected thrice as an MLA from Jama, a seat held by her late husband, Durga Soren, made a significant shift in her political trajectory during the last Lok Sabha elections. Breaking ties with the influential Soren family, she earned considerable respect from the BJP, which fielded her as their candidate for the Dumka Lok Sabha seat, replacing the incumbent MP, Sunil Soren. However, she lost the election to JMM's Nalin Soren. Now Nalin Soren's son Alok Soren is certain to be made the candidate for the vacant Assembly seat.

Similarly, Joba Manjhi, JMM MLA from Manoharpur and a minister has moved on to become an MP, paving the way for her son Jagat Manjhi to contest the Assembly elections.

The JMM's pattern of promoting family members in politics raises interesting questions about dynasty politics and leadership succession in state politics. After Simon Marandi, a multiple-time JMM MLA from Litti para, passed away, his son Dinesh William Marandi

took his place and won the last election. Dinesh William Marandi, now 34, has been serving as an MLA since December 27, 2019. Given his track record, he's likely to secure the ticket again.

Following the death of JMM's influential leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Sudhir Mahto, the party positioned his wife, Savita Mahto, to contest the Ichagarh seat in the Assembly. This time, either she or her daughter, Sneha Mahto, is expected to run for the seat.

Similarly, after the demise of former minister Jagarnath Mahto on the Dumri seat, his wife, Baby Devi, was chosen by the party to carry forward his political legacy. She was not only elected as an MLA but also appointed as a Minister. It is almost certain that either she or her son, Raju Mahto, will be the party's candidate for this seat.

In the same vein, following the death of former minister Haji Hussain Ansari on the Madhupur seat, his son, Hafizul Hasan, was fielded by the party. After winning the election, he became a Minister and is set to contest this seat once again.

## Seeman & Thirumavalavan are a 'threat' to Tamil unity: BJP

AGENCIES  
CHENNAI, OCT 21

Tamil Nadu BJP Spokesperson and senior party leader A.N.S. Prasad said that Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) leader Thirumavalavan and Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) leader Seeman are a "threat" to Tamil unity.

The BJP leader said they were prioritising personal ambitions over the welfare of Tamil people.

He said that Thirumavalavan is accused of focusing on coalition politics to become Chief Minister while Seeman is known for making unrealistic promises and promoting divisive ideology.

"This self-serving approach has raised concerns among those who genuinely care for Tamil Nadu's prosperity. It's crucial for parties opposed

to their politics to unite, prioritising people's needs over individual interests," said Prasad.

He said that the VCK leader Thirumavalavan claims to want a share in the governing power, only to exploit and now desires to become the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

He also charged that NTK leader Seeman indulges in making unrealistic promises, deceiving the people with magical political illusions, and presents himself as an indispensable force in Tamil Nadu politics.

Prasad said that Seeman does this with such conviction, as if he's directing a screenplay, and speaks aggressively like a terrorist, even declaring that Tamil Nadu no longer needs the slogan "Tamil Thaa Vazhthu" (Long live Mother Tamil).

"Every individual born

and raised in Tamil Nadu, nurtured by Tamil culture and educated in the Tamil language, is a Tamilian, regardless of caste, religion, or ethnicity," he said.

He added that every person born in India is an Indian, transcending caste, religion, and ethnic divisions.

"For years, Seeman claimed to be the guardian of Tamils worldwide, yet pursued divisive politics in Tamil Nadu. He also boasts of dining with LTTE leader Prabhakaran in Sri Lankan jungles amidst gunfire and collected funds from Tamils globally. Now, he questions who is a Tamil. Ironically, he lacks the credibility and moral authority to define Tamil identity," he said.

He added that to prosper, Tamils and Tamil Nadu need guidance on the right path, following Thiruvalluvar's principles.

## Truly India's century: Businessmen laud country's growth under PM Modi

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 21

Leading businessmen on Monday hailed India's growth trajectory under the "decisive leadership" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, emphasising that this is truly India's century.

Speaking to IANS on the sidelines of the NDTV World Summit, Baba Kalyani, Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Forge, and Sudhakar Adapa, Founder & CEO of Bia Brands, highlighted India's progress towards becoming the third-largest economy in the world, driven by PM Modi's vision and policies.

Kalyani highlighted India's remarkable GDP growth, stating, "This is India's century. Our country's GDP has grown by eight times, as has our



manufacturing. India's economy is currently around \$3.8 to \$3.9 trillion, and by 2047, it will exceed \$30 trillion. Manufacturing will see a 12-fold increase, representing exponential growth across all sectors."

He also underscored the importance of innovation for sustaining this growth.

"For this growth to continue, we must innovate in technology. We can't rely on others' technologies anymore; we need to

develop our own. We're already doing this in Defence, creating indigenous artillery technology," Kalyani added.

Sudhakar Adapa praised PM Modi's "decisive leadership" for elevating India on the global stage.

"The Prime Minister has laid out a clear vision to position India globally, advancing bilateral trade and making India easier for business. His focus on boosting the stock markets and attracting significant

Foreign Direct Investments is already yielding results," he said.

Adapa highlighted the Prime Minister's achievements in the first 125 days of his third term, observing that India's economic outlook is "very bullish."

"We are in safe hands with PM Modi's leadership. His commitment is unwavering, and even after a decade of accomplishments, he hasn't slowed down," he said. He further underlined that India's demographic advantage, with the largest working-age population, gives the country a unique edge.

"India has always had potential, but now we have all the building blocks to realise it. We are the fifth-largest economy and are set to become the third-largest within a few

years, powered by our demographic strength," he said.

Lauding the digital revolution in India, which has transformed the economy, Adapa said, "The penetration of digital platforms for payments and communication is incredible. From street vendors to high-net-worth individuals, digital literacy has reshaped the landscape, thanks to the government's efforts to promote inclusive growth."

He concluded by highlighting the growing global respect for India and its entrepreneurs. "We are no longer considered secondary citizens. When I say I'm from India on the world stage, there is immense respect. India has arrived, and Indian entrepreneurs have arrived. It's our time now," he said.

## GLOBAL SOUTH TRUSTS INDIA AND PM MODI'S LEADERSHIP: BHUTAN PM

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 21

Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for playing a massive role in driving Bhutan's economic growth over the last 10 years, Bhutanese PM Dasho Tshering Tobgay said that the entire world, in particular the Global South, looks at India's leadership when it comes to solving key global issues.

"The world needs India. This is India's century for many reasons - India has the largest population in the world which continues to grow. India has a booming economy which should have crossed five trillion US dollars had it not been for Covid. India has the biggest consumer base and a huge diaspora, particularly in the advanced countries. By every measure, it is India's century. One thing that stands out is India's leadership. Not just Indians but the entire Global South trusts India's leadership," Tobgay said during a session titled



'India Bhutan Ties: The Next Phase' at the NDTV World Summit on Monday.

The 59-year-old leader, who was born in West Bengal's Kalimpong, asserted that the previous two terms of PM Modi will be leveraged as a springboard to take India forward in the coming years.

"If there is any country that can sort out any problem, it is India. The world looks to Indian markets

when it comes to economic problems. The world looked towards India for vaccines and medicine during the Covid pandemic. Even Russia and Ukraine, if there is any person who can sort out the conflict, I do believe it is Prime Minister Modi," said the Prime Minister of the Himalayan country.

Tobgay lauded India's support - "specially that of PM Modi" - and the

Indian investors while detailing how Bhutan's Gross National Happiness (GNH) index and economic growth is linked with social progress, environment sustainability, culture preservation and good governance

"We have many developmental partners, many countries, many multilateral agencies but we have one main friend, India which has always been with us. The government of India is giving us a Rs 8500 crore assistance package for our 13th five-year-plan which is extremely generous and almost double of what we received in the 12th five-year-plan. This is going to finance the much-needed infrastructure in Bhutan - the roads, bridges, schools, IT and hospitals," said the Bhutanese PM.

Calling PM Modi his "brother", Tobgay said that PM Modi has been ready to assist Bhutan whenever the country needed any kind of help.

Both countries are also

currently engaged in a fruitful clean energy partnership in the development of the hydro-power sector of Bhutan, and in providing energy security to the region.

"PM Modi has launched the solar alliance which shows emphasis for renewable energy and getting other like-minded countries to join it. We have massive hydrogen potential, we have tapped about 2500 megawatts, almost all of it in partnership with India. Both countries are now looking forward to launching almost 2000 megawatts of projects," Tobgay mentioned while hoping that India's rise as an advanced nation will also benefit other neighbouring countries in the region.

A host of world leaders, including Prime Minister Modi, addressed the opening day of the 'NDTV World Summit 2024 - The India Century' on Monday, discussing major global issues and the rise of India over the last 10 years.

## They exemplify courage and determination: PM Modi pays tribute on Police Commemoration Day

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 21

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday paid tributes to the police personnel on the occasion of the Police Commemoration Day.

The Prime Minister posted on X: "Today, on Police Commemoration Day, we honour the bravery and sacrifice of our police personnel. Their unwavering dedication ensures the safety of our people.

They exemplify courage and determination. Their proactive efforts and assistance during humanitarian challenges are equally commendable."

The Police Commemoration Day is observed to pay tributes to police personnel who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also paid tributes to all police personnel who died in the line of duty on the Police Commemoration Day.

In a post on X, Shah said this is an occasion that



honours the infinite sacrifices the police personnel and their families make to keep the nation safe.

He extended heartfelt gratitude to them for all the sacrifices they have made for the nation.

"They have scripted an indelible history of patriotism with their selfless service and supreme sacrifice.

Their lives will remain a beacon of inspiration for our generations to come. The Modi gov't is committed to honoring the soldiers and their family members with the recognition they deserve. Whether it is ensuring housing, healthcare, scholarships, or implementing promotions in cadres that were earlier deprived of them, our government has dem-

onstrated its resolve to their holistic welfare."

The Home Minister laid a wreath at the National Police Memorial.

In his address, Shah said that 36,468 police personnel have made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. More than 216 police personnel were killed in the line of duty in the past year, Shah said.

The Home Minister said that in the last decade, due to the efforts of the brave Jawans, peace has been restored in Jammu and Kashmir, the north-east, and areas affected by Left-Wing Extremism. He added that the three new criminal laws will ensure that the country's criminal system becomes the most modern in the world.

It was on this day in 1959 that a group of Indian policemen on a reconnaissance mission at Hot Springs in Aksai Chin were ambushed by Chinese forces.

Ten valiant police personnel laid down their lives fighting heavily armed Chinese troops.



# Palestinian envoy calls for emergency Arab League meeting over Gaza

AGENCIES  
RAMALLAH, OCT 21

Palestine has requested an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council at the level of permanent representatives amid "intensifying Israeli aggression," a Palestinian envoy said.

The request comes in light of the escalating Israeli "crimes" committed against the defenceless Palestinian people, said Mohamad A. A. Alaklounk, the permanent representative of Palestine to the Arab League, according to the Palestinian official news agency WAFA.

Noting the Israeli army's horrific acts that have caused "forced displacement, destruction, and starvation, particularly in northern Gaza," Alaklounk called on the Arab League and its member states to assume respon-



sibilities regarding these "unprecedented crimes," which pose a threat to the security of Arab states as a whole, Xinhua news agency reported.

The Israeli army has continued its ground operation in the Jabalia camp,

the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Gaza, for the 16th consecutive day, claiming the operation aims to prevent Hamas fighters from regrouping to launch further attacks.

During the operation, Israeli forces killed

hundreds of Palestinians, destroyed dozens of homes and infrastructure, and forced numerous families to flee their residences, according to Palestinian sources.

On Sunday, the Central Committee of the Pales-

stinian National Liberation Movement (Fatah) held a meeting in Ramallah in the central West Bank.

Several key issues were discussed, including the ongoing Israeli "crimes" in Gaza, primarily the recent Israeli killings in the north, according to a statement released by the committee after the meeting.

The statement reaffirmed the Palestinian leadership's continuous efforts to secure international protection from the United Nations for the entirety of the State of Palestine.

Israel has been launching a large-scale offensive against Hamas in Gaza to retaliate against a Hamas rampage through the southern Israeli border on October 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and around 250 others were taken hostage.

# India should become permanent member of UNSC: Russian FM

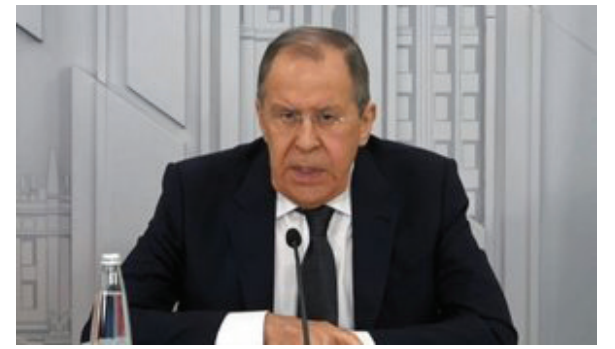
AGENCIES  
MOSCOW, OCT 21

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has that India, Brazil and African countries should be represented in the UN Security Council (UNSC) on a permanent basis to ensure the representativeness of the global majority.

Lavrov made the remarks during an interview with aif.ru, state-owned TASS news agency reported on Sunday.

"Countries such as India, Brazil, as well as representatives of Africa should have been on a permanent basis in the Security Council for a long time. This is necessary to ensure representativeness, representation of the global majority," Lavrov was quoted as saying.

At the UN General Assembly's high-level meeting last month, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer also voiced strong sup-



port for India's inclusion as a permanent member of a reformed Security Council, along with permanent African representation, Brazil, Japan and Germany and more seats for elected members as well.

"If we want the system to deliver for the poorest and most vulnerable then their voices must be heard. We need to make the system more representative and more responsive to those who need it most. So we will make the case not just for fairer outcomes,

but fairer representation in how we reach them. And this also applies to the Security Council. It has to change to become a more representative body, willing to act -- not paralysed by politics. We want to see permanent African representation on the Council, Brazil, India, Japan and Germany as permanent members, and more seats for elected members as well," Starmer had said while addressing the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

# Turkey aims to boost renewable energy share in electricity production

AGENCIES  
ANKARA, OCT 21

Turkey is aiming to further boost the share of renewable energy in its electricity production to 47.8 per cent by 2025, according to a report by the semi-official Anadolu Agency, citing the 2025 budget proposal of the Energy and Natural Resources Ministry.

The proposal outlines plans to increase the contribution of solar power plants (SPP), wind power plants (WPP), geothermal power plants (GPP), and hydroelectric power plants (HPP) in the energy mix, Xinhua news agency reported.

According to data from



42.7 per cent in 2023, is expected to reach 45 per cent by the end of 2024 and 47.8 per cent in 2025, Anadolu said. According to the budget proposal, the country is also aiming to increase the share of domestic resources in electricity production to 58.9 per cent by the end of this year and 59.4 per cent by 2025 while reducing natural gas's share to 20.7 per cent by the end of 2024 and 18.9 per cent by 2025. In 2023, natural gas accounted for 21.4 per cent of electricity production. To facilitate these objectives, the ministry is expected to receive a budget of 45.3 billion lire (\$1.33 billion) for the year 2025.

the Turkish Electricity Transmission Corporation, Turkey currently has an installed capacity of 32,195 MW from HPP, 12,369 MW from WPP, 18,756 MW from SPP, and 1,691 MW from GPP.

By 2025, the country reportedly aims to expand this capacity to 32,395 MW for HPP, 14,800 MW for WPP, 22,600 MW for SPP, and 4,487 MW for GPP.

The share of renewable energy in electricity production, which was

# Israeli Air Force destroys Hezbollah's terror infrastructure in targeted strikes

AGENCIES  
JERUSALEM, OCT 21

Israeli Air Force (IAF) on Monday said that it conducted a series of targeted, intelligence-based strikes against dozens of facilities and sites used by Hezbollah's military arm to finance its terrorist activities against Israel.

The strikes were conducted in the areas of Beirut, southern Lebanon, and deep within Lebanese territory.

"These funds, which Hezbollah used for terror activities, were stored by the Al-Qard al-Hassan Association, which directly funds Hezbollah's terror activities, including the



purchase of weapons and payments to operatives in Hezbollah's military wing," the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said in a statement.

"Hezbollah stores billions of dollars in the association's branches, includ-

ing money that was directly held under the name of the terrorist organization," it added.

The IDF mentioned that, prior to launching strikes, numerous steps were taken to mitigate the

risk of harming civilians, including advance warnings issued via different platforms to the civilian population in the area.

These strikes, it said, are part of the IDF's ongoing efforts to degrade Hezbollah's terror infrastructure, its military capabilities and ability to rebuild.

Meanwhile, in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli forces destroyed terrorist infrastructure and tunnel shafts in the Jabaliya area and eliminated dozens of terrorists in 36 hours.

"During the activity of the forces, the fighters of the 401st TDF eliminated a number of terrorists who posed a threat to the forces by firing tanks, in

skirmishes and by directing air force strikes," the IDF revealed.

The Israeli forces of the Gaza Division, besides eliminating a number of terrorists who posed a threat to them in Rafah, also destroyed terrorist infrastructure and a weapons warehouse in the centre of the Gaza Strip.

In southern Lebanon, the IDF forces destroyed many stockpiles of weapons used by Hezbollah, including weapons, anti-tank missiles and launchers aimed at the settlements in the north of the country, RPG launchers, cartridges, charges, Grenades and other combat equipment.

# US DEFENCE SECRETARY ARRIVES IN KYIV ON FOURTH UKRAINE VISIT

AGENCIES  
KYIV, OCT 21

US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin arrived in Kyiv on Monday, a visit that he said underscores Washington's commitment to provide Ukraine with the security assistance it needs to defend itself from Russia.

"I'm back in Ukraine for the fourth time as Secretary of Defense, demonstrating that the United States, alongside the international community, continues to stand by Ukraine," Lloyd posted on X after his arrival in Kyiv on Monday morning.

During his engagements, he is scheduled to meet with Ukrainian leaders and reiterate the support of the United States for Ukraine's "fight for



freedom", "At the conclusion of his visit, the Secretary will deliver a speech that will highlight how Ukraine has skillfully fought back against Putin's war of choice, US commitment to ensuring Ukraine's armed forces have the battlefield capabilities they need, and why Ukraine's fight matters for US security,"

Sabrina Singh, the US Defence Department's Deputy Press Secretary, said in a statement.

Singh mentioned that, since April 2022, Lloyd has convened the Ukraine Defence Contact Group on a near monthly basis—a coalition of some 50 countries from around the globe determined to help Ukraine. "Together, the

nations of the UDCG have provided billions of dollars of security assistance for Ukraine—and helped pave the way to build the future force and the industrial base that will enable Ukraine to deter Russian aggression into the future," Singh stated.

Last week, Lloyd had reaffirmed the US and NATO's long-term commitment to a free and sovereign Ukraine, asserting that Washington is determined to stand by Ukraine for the long haul.

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

# Sudan, South Sudan discuss resumption of oil transportation

AGENCIES  
KHARTOUM, OCT 21

Sudan and South Sudan stressed the need to address the obstacles facing the resumption of South Sudan's oil exports via the Sudanese territory.

This came after Chairman of Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council and General Commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan met on Sunday with South Sudan's Presidential Advisor on National Security Tut Gatluak in Port Sudan, the capital city of the Red Sea State in eastern Sudan, Xinhua news agency reported. "All technical teams in the two countries are ready to increase production and ensure the flow of oil through the Sudanese port of Bashayer," Gatluak said in a statement, highlighting South Sudan's readiness to implement what was agreed upon with the Sudanese government.

A meeting between the two coun-



tries' ministries of energy and petroleum is expected in this regard, Gatluak said, noting that "oil is a lifeline for the people of both countries."

In March, the Sudanese government announced the suspension of South Sudan's oil exports through Sudanese territories due to a fault in the transportation lines.

According to the Sudanese authorities, the fault was a result of a blockage in an underground pipe-

line, situated in the north of Sudan's White Nile State, an area controlled by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

The meeting followed a previous one in early June.

Oil exports constitute the main source of South Sudan's national revenue, and the country heavily depends on Sudan, its northern neighbour, to transport oil to international markets.

# ISRAELI ARMY DEMOLISHES UN OBSERVATION TOWER, FENCE IN LEBANON: UNIFIL

AGENCIES  
BEIRUT, OCT 21

A bulldozer of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) "deliberately demolished" an observation tower and perimeter fence of a UN position in Marwahin, a town in southern Lebanon, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has said.

"Breaching a UN posi-



tion and damaging UN assets is a flagrant violation of international law and Security Council Resolu-

tion 1701," the UNIFIL said on Sunday in a statement on social media platform X, reminding the IDF and

all actors of their obligations "to ensure the safety and security of UN personnel and properties and to respect the inviolability of UN premises at all times."

The IDF has repeatedly demanded that the UNIFIL vacate its positions along the Blue Line and has deliberately damaged UN positions, the UN mission said.

Despite the challenges,

"peacekeepers remain in all positions. We will continue to undertake our mandated tasks," the UNIFIL stressed.

Israeli forces have attacked UNIFIL positions in Lebanon several times over these days, causing injuries among UN peacekeepers and sparking criticism from the international community, Xinhua news agency reported.

# S. Korea, Austria hold talks to discuss economic ties

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, OCT 21

South Korean Trade Minister Cheong In-kyo met with his Austrian counterpart on Monday to discuss bilateral economic ties in areas such as cutting-edge industries, the Trade Ministry said.

Cheong met Austrian Labor Minister Martin Kocher in the central city of Sejong to share ideas on utilising their respective strengths to build a foundation for closer economic ties, Yonhap news agency

reported, citing the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy. During the meeting, Cheong noted that the two countries have been expanding industrial cooperation in telecommunications and biotechnology, among other areas, and emphasized the need to further strengthen such ties in emerging sectors like hydrogen and artificial intelligence.

The trade minister said the two countries should also join hands to achieve success in the hydrogen

economy as well, noting that the resource is an effective tool for pursuing carbon neutrality in various sectors.

Cheong further asked the Austrian government to support South Korean firms operating in Austria, including businesses in the electric vehicle batteries and automobile parts industries. Austria is South Korea's 12th-largest trade partner within the European Union, with combined trade volume reaching \$2.94 billion in 2023.



## India used digital tech to improve citizens' lives as US 'wasted' opportunities: Paul Romer

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 21

Nobel laureate, Professor Paul Michael Romer said on Monday that while the United States, which saw the rise of the Silicon Valley, failed to use technology to improve the lives of its citizens, India has shown to the world how to use digital technology to make the lives of 140 crore people better.

Citing the example of digital public infrastructure (DPI) solutions like Aadhaar and Unified Payment Interface (UPI), Romer said the technological opportunities that were presented to the US were "wasted and squandered".



dered".

"The question is, if we are given opportunities, what do we do with those? The digital opportunities that were given to the US were wasted and squandered phenomenally," the

top economist said during the 'NDTV World Summit 2024'.

UPI-based transaction volume surged 52 per cent to 78.97 billion in the first half of this year (H1 2024), from 51.9 billion in the

same period last year.

Similarly, the value of transactions grew by 40 per cent, increasing from Rs 83.16 lakh crore to Rs 116.63 lakh crore in the first six months of this year.

Hailing the Aadhaar initiative, the Nobel laureate said the digital technology was used to give citizens existence and further access to various government schemes seamlessly.

"The government has an important role to function as a regulator to effectively utilise technology for public good," the top economist said.

"The government in India was happy to make apps (like UPI). It did not

happen in the US. People in India can see how because of the government's technological and digital intervention, their lives have become better," said Romer, a former Chief Economist of the World Bank.

He further stated that problems like climate change can be tackled with technological innovation without compromising economic growth. According to the economist, the digital revolution in India is very different from most countries of the world, where the target is only a lucky few beneficiaries.

"India's story is unique because it is providing benefits to all," he said.

## Tata Motors to supply 1,000 diesel bus chassis to UPSRTC

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, OCT 21

Tata Motors on Monday announced it has received an order from the Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) to supply 1,000 units of the 'Tata LPO 1618' diesel bus chassis. The latest order follows the successful fulfilment of an earlier order of 1,350 bus chassis received last year, which are currently being run efficiently by the UPSRTC.

Designed for safe intercity and long-distance travel, 'Tata LPO 1618' diesel bus chassis deliver superior performance and excellent passenger comfort with low Total Cost of Ownership



("The 'Tata LPO 1618' bus chassis is engineered to deliver robust and reliable mobility with high uptime and low maintenance and operating costs. We look forward to commencing supplies as per the guidance of UPSRTC," said Anand S, Vice President and Head - Commercial Passenger Vehicle Business, Tata Motors.

The bus chassis will be supplied in a phased manner as per mutually agreed terms, said the com-

pany.

Tata Motors said it has been at the forefront of delivering advanced buses and public transportation solutions to various cities and states across the country. Thousands of these buses operate successfully on the country's roads, connecting urban and rural areas, facilitating comfortable and efficient daily travel for millions of citizens. Part of the \$165 billion Tata Group, Tata Motors is a \$44 billion organisation and is a leading global automobile manufacturer of cars, utility vehicles, pickups, trucks, and buses, offering an extensive range of integrated, smart, and e-mobility solutions.

## Hyundai Motor India set to make stock market debut after record IPO

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI/SEOUL, OCT 21

The Indian subsidiary of South Korean automotive giant Hyundai Motor is set to make its stock market debut this week following a record initial public offering (IPO), according to industry officials on Monday.

Shares of Hyundai Motor India are set to start trading on the Indian stock market on Tuesday, following last week's \$3.3 billion IPO subscription process.

It marks Hyundai Motor's first listing outside South Korea and the largest IPO in the history of the Indian stock market, surpassing the previous record set by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in 2022, which then raised \$2.5 billion.

The IPO price band has been fixed at Rs 1,865-Rs 1,960 per share. The IPO is



a pure offer for sale (OFS) and the entire proceeds will go to the promoter.

India serves as a key global production base for the Korean automotive giant. Last year, Hyundai produced 765,000 vehicles in India, reports Yonhap news agency.

Hyundai Motor India is the second-biggest carmaker in India, following Japan's Maruti Suzuki. Industry observers are keen on whether the company can enhance its local competitiveness through

the listing on the Indian

stock market.

The South Korean automotive giant has made aggressive investments in India in recent years.

Last year, Hyundai acquired General Motors' manufacturing plant in India's western city of Pune.

The company is currently upgrading the facility with a smart manufacturing system, aiming to achieve a production capacity of over 200,000 units annually.

Once the Pune plant becomes operational in

the second half of next year, Hyundai Motor India will have a combined annual production capacity of 1 million units when leveraging both the Chennai and Pune plants.

Additionally, Hyundai Motor plans to expand the number of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in India to 485 by 2030.

Together with affiliate Kia Corp., Hyundai Motor has entered into a strategic partnership with Indian battery giant Exide Energy this year.

Hyundai plans to introduce the Creta EV, which is the electric version of the company's first India-specific Creta SUV, in 2025. The model will be the first EV produced locally at the Chennai plant.

The company plans to introduce five EV models in the Indian market by 2030 to meet the growing demand for EVs in the country.

## Indian apparel exporters to see 9-11 pc revenue growth in FY25

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 21

Indian apparel exporters are estimated to see a 9-11 per cent revenue growth in FY25, benefitting from the gradual liquidation of retail inventory in the key end markets and a shift in global sourcing to the country, a part of the de-risking strategy adopted by several customers, a report showed on Monday.

With the revival in demand, credit rating ICRA expects the capex spending to increase in FY25 and FY26 and may stay in the range of 5-8 per cent of the turnover.

The long-term prospects for Indian apparel exports are favourable, aided by enhanced product acceptance in end markets, evolving consumer trends and a boost from the government in the form of the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, export



incentives, the proposed free trade agreement with the UK and the EU, among others, the report noted.

Apart from the benefits to be derived from the fresh capacity additions under the PLI scheme, the PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel scheme is expected to strengthen India's presence in the global apparel trade by providing scale

benefits and strengthening the country's presence in the man-made fibre value chain.

In the first half of the current fiscal, apparel exports grew by 9 per cent on a YoY basis to \$7.5 billion.

Srikumar Krishnamurthy from ICRA said that after a marginal decline (down 2 per cent) in FY24, Indian apparel exporters

are estimated to report a 9-11 per cent revenue growth in FY25. Despite the revenue growth, associated operating leverage benefits and softer raw material prices, the industry's operating margins are expected to contract by 30-50 bps on a YoY basis in FY25 with increasing labour costs, freight costs and rise in other operating expenses, he mentioned.

According to the report, recent geo-political tensions in Bangladesh could result in capacity additions outside the country, including India. "Nevertheless, the availability of labour at competitive costs and preferential duty access, given its least developed country status for another two years on exports to the US and the EU help Bangladesh to remain competitive against most other developing countries," the report noted.

## Foreign investors infuse \$436 mn in India's real estate sector, 139 pc YOY increase in Q3 2024

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 21

Institutional investments in India's real estate sector witnessed an annual growth of 41 per cent in Q3 2024, reaching \$0.96 billion.

However, it sharply declined from the \$3.1 billion record investments received in the previous quarter, according to a report.

A Vestian Research report said that despite this significant quarterly decline of 69 per cent, the outlook remains positive as investment nearly touches a billion mark.

"The significant uptick in investments compared to the previous year is a testament to India's robust economic growth



amid prevailing geopolitical challenges. As a result, the share of foreign investors increased from 27 per cent in Q3 2023 to 46 per cent in Q3 2024," it said.

"Conversely, the share of domestic investors declined to 43 per cent in Q3 2024 from 71 per

cent in the same quarter a year earlier. However, the decrease was only 15 per cent in terms of value," the report said.

Vestian CEO Shrinivas Rao said: "Investors have shown confidence in India's growth story on the back of robust

GDP growth. As a result, the real estate sector witnessed increased participation from foreign investors which led to institutional investments touching a billion mark in Q3 2024."

"Additionally, domestic investors are also actively participating, supported by the rapid infrastructure development across the country," he added.

Residential assets were the first preference for domestic investors during Q3 2024 whereas foreign investors accounted for 64 per cent of the commercial deals.

The growing prominence of work-from-office mandates and GCCs (global capability centres) lured foreign investors, leading to an increase in

the share of commercial investments from 24 per cent in Q3 2023 to 71 per cent in Q3 2024.

On the other hand, the share of the residential sector reduced to 19 per cent in Q3 2024 from 44 per cent in the same period a year earlier. However, investment in residential assets is expected to grow in the coming quarters as niche asset classes such as co-living, senior housing, and serviced apartments are gaining traction.

According to the report, Chennai received the highest investments during Q3 2024 with a 48 per cent share, and a majority of investments in the city were concentrated in industrial & warehousing, commercial, and residential sectors.

## EPFO adds 18.53 lakh members in August, new members up amid job growth

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 21

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on Sunday said it added 18.53 lakh net members in the month of August, a 9.07 per cent year-on-year growth compared to August 2023. The EPFO enrolled around 9.30 lakh new members in August, representing an increase of 0.48 per cent in the new members from the previous year in August 2023.

This signifies increased employment opportunities and heightened awareness of employee benefits, bolstered by the EPFO's effective outreach initiatives, said the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The surge in new memberships can be attributed to growing employment

opportunities, increased awareness of employee benefits, and the EPFO's successful outreach programmes.

According to the ministry, a noticeable aspect of the data is the dominance of the 18-25 age group, constituting a significant 59.26 per cent of the total new members added in August 2024. In addition, the net payroll data for the age group 18-25 for August 2024 is 8.06 lakh. "This is in consonance with the earlier trend which indicates that most individuals joining the organised workforce are youth, primarily first-time job seekers," said the ministry. Approximately 13.54 lakh members exited and subsequently rejoined the EPFO - a YoY growth of 14.03 per cent compared to August 2023. The EPFO

added around 2.53 lakh new female members - a year-over-year growth of 3.75 per cent. Also, the net female member addition during the month stood at around 3.79 lakh. The surge in female member additions is indicative of a broader shift towards a more inclusive and diverse workforce. Top five states/UTs constitute around 59.17 per cent of net member addition, adding a total around 10.97 lakh net members during the month. Of all the states, Maharashtra led by adding 20.59 per cent of net members. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Delhi, Gujarat, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh individually added more than 5 per cent of the total net members during the month.

## Shift from agriculture to manufacturing must for India's growth: Amitabh Kant

AGENCIES  
KASAUJI, OCT 20

India's G20 Sherpa and former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant contends that in order for India to grow at high rates of nine to ten per cent and become a developed economy by 2047, the country's GDP has to grow by nine times and per capita income by eight times, with manufacturing and urbanisation playing a key role in the process.

He also hailed India's chairmanship of the G20 and batted for lateral entry into the government service. "Our manufacturing has to grow by 16 times. It has to fire on all cylinders. We have to become a manufacturing nation," Kant told IANS at the Kasauli Literary Festival.

He also stressed that the country must urbanise in a scientific, sustainable manner, enhance agriculture productivity, and remain a services nation.

"For all this to happen, you have to provide well-paid jobs to the people and every transition that takes place to manufacturing means that people must move from agriculture to manufacturing and towards urbanisation. The dependence of population in India on agriculture is 46.5 per cent," Kant added.

He pointed out that agriculture gives us 16.5 per cent of the GDP, adding that nowhere in the world does this happen.

## PM Modi well-qualified to become key mediator between Russia, Ukraine: Mark Mobius

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 21

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is well-qualified to become a key mediator to help end the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war as India has shown its ability to be neutral and to be fair to all, ace global investor Mark Mobius said on Monday.

Speaking to IANS on the sidelines of the 'NDTV World Summit 2024', Mobius, 88, said India is in

a very good position to act as a mediator for peace on the global stage.

"The country has shown its ability to be neutral and to be fair to all, so it could be a great mediator between Russia and Ukraine. PM Modi is very well qualified to be a key mediator in the world today," Mobius stressed.

Joining global leaders who are battling strongly for India getting a permanent seat on the United



Nations Security Council (UNSC), Mobius said that given the size of the Indian economy and population, the country should have a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

"India's growth story is continuing. It is very much

in line and is at a take-off stage to become one of the developed economies in coming years," Mobius told IANS.

As he turned 88 in August, Mobius announced plans to launch a new fund in January next year, in a rapidly changing financial landscape where innovation presents unprecedented opportunities.

Earlier in the day, former British Prime Minister David Cameron endorsed

India's mediatory role in the Russia-Ukraine war and said that it has the credibility as well as goodwill to arrange a truce between the two warring nations. At the summit, Cameron said that given the nature of India and Britain as the world's largest and oldest democracies, much lies in common and the two countries share a common responsibility of making the world a better place to live.



# Mayank Yadav will carry the baton of Indian pace bowling: Mohammed Shami

AGENCIES  
GURUGRAM (HARYANA), OCT 21

Indian pacer Mohammed Shami has showered praise on young pace sensation Mayank Yadav and called him the future of India bowling. Shami, who also declared himself 100% fit and ready to bowl, feels that youngsters like Mayank Yadav and Harshit Rana have the capability to carry forward the baton of Indian pace bowling.

The 34-year-old, who had played the event with an injury, was instrumental in India finishing runner-up in the 2023 ODI World Cup by taking 24 wickets at an astonishing average of 10.70. Shami is now prioritising his health. After undergoing surgery in February in London, the pacer has been work-

ing on his recovery at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru.

"The best thing that has happened for Indian cricket is that our pace bowling strength has really gone up. Earlier, we used to have only a few bowlers who used to bowl 140-145 km/h but now even those bowlers who are at the bench are bowling above 145. One of the names that have really impressed me in pace bowling is Mayank Yadav. He is really impressive, he is someone who will carry the baton of Indian pace bowling in the future," said Shami at an event organised by Eugenix Hair Sciences in Gurugram.

"We have worked as a unit since 2014," Shami said. "India never had three bowlers at a time



who could bowl over 140kph. Now we have some on the bench who can bowl 145kph. This generation knows how to fight back, and we've shown that overseas."

Yashavi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, and Harshit Rana all will carry the Indian

cricket forward as batters.

Shami bowled for more than an hour at full tilt in the nets after the conclusion of India's first Test against New Zealand at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. With heavy strapping on his left knee, he bowled under the watchful eyes of bowling coach Morne Morkel and assistant coach Abhishek Nayar. Despite the rigorous session, Shami reported no discomfort and expressed confidence in his progress.

With a month left before the first Test against Australia, Shami is focused on his fitness and is looking to return to domestic cricket as a stepping stone.

If his recovery goes as planned, Shami could feature in a few Ranji Trophy matches or even partici-

pate in a three-day warm-up game between India and India A in Perth ahead of the first Test.

Reflecting on the challenges of returning from injury, Shami emphasised the importance of patience.

"It's very difficult to come back on track after an injury, so patience is the biggest thing. Injuries teach you patience and make your skill purer," he said.

Shami's return is highly anticipated, especially given his crucial role in India's historic Test series win in Australia in 2018-19. The Indian pace attack, featuring Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, and Mohammed Siraj, has evolved into one of the most feared in the world, known for their pace and variety.

# India captain Harmanpreet Kaur included in Women's T20 WC team of the tournament

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 21

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur has been included in 2024 Women's T20 World Cup team of the tournament, which includes champions New Zealand and runners-up South Africa being represented by three players each, along with players from West Indies, Bangladesh, England and Australia.

Though India didn't enter the semi-finals under her leadership, Harmanpreet ended the tournament with 150 runs in four matches and being dismissed just once in four innings. The right-handed batter also made unbeaten half-centuries against Sri Lanka and Australia at Dubai and Sharjah respectively.

The team includes New Zealand all-rounder

Amelia Kerr, who picked up Player of the Match in the final as well as the Player of the Tournament trophy. Amelia, 24, took 15 wickets - the most by any player in an edition of Women's T20 World Cup - and scored 135 runs, including top-scoring with 43 in the final to help New Zealand lift the trophy for the first time.

She is joined in the side by her team-mates - pacer Rosemary Mair, who took 10 wickets at an average of 11.70, including three in the final, and off-spinner Eden Carson, listed as 12th player in this team after picking nine wickets.

South Africa's opening pair of captain Laura Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits - the two highest run-scorers in the competition - have been selected too. Laura was remarkably consistent, with four scores of 40 or above

including a best of 59 not out in the opener against West Indies and ending with a tally of 223 runs at 44.60 and strike-rate of 113.19 in six innings.

Tazmin, meanwhile, made 187 runs in total with a best of 57 not out. They are joined by England's Danni Wyatt-Hodge, who scored 151 runs in four innings. She top-scored with 41 in England's opening victory against Bangladesh before important knocks of 43 and 51 not out in wins over South Africa and Scotland respectively.

The side also has left-arm spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba, who took wickets in all six matches she played in, taking 4-29 against West Indies and 3-12 against Scotland. She also earned the key scalp of Tahliha McGrath in South Africa's semi-final win over Australia and took two wickets in the final.

# Jack Leach felt his career was over after being out for long time with injury

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 21

England's left-arm spinner Jack Leach admitted that he feared about his international career being over after being left out of the home summer games. Leach was out of action since January due to a knee injury sustained during the first Test against India in Hyderabad.

But Leach, 33, was recalled into England's Test team for their ongoing tour of Pakistan, where he's picked 14 wickets in two games at Multan. "After a long time out with injury, I felt maybe that might be it, even though I knew this tour was the other side of the summer."

"At that point, it was very much about me getting back to my best and enjoying my cricket, and being injury-free for a



good amount of time," said Leach to BBC Sport ahead of the series decider at Rawalpindi.

In his absence, off-spinner Shoaib Bashir has become a regular player with the England Test team. "If you're not able to stay fit, then other people come in and do well, and Bash certainly did that. A lot of it doesn't need to be explained. I know what

the situation was. It was just about me getting back to fitness. Then, from that, you take wickets and build confidence. That's what I went away and did," added Leach.

Talking about his relationship with Bashir, also a fellow Somerset player in domestic cricket, Leach remarked, "We've got a really good relationship. Bash has got off to an

amazing start. His talent is amazing. He has got such a high ceiling and he's on the way to that. That's exciting for English cricket."

"It might be different at Somerset next year. Who knows? For me, it's quite a fluid thing. Those are things I can't control. Somerset and England are the teams I've been playing for. If they want to pick me, then I'll give everything to them. That's all I want to focus on."

Leach, who's picked 140 wickets in 38 Tests, signed off by saying England are yet to get a look at the pitch in Rawalpindi. "I don't know what to expect. I haven't seen anything. We'll go to training tomorrow, have a look at it. I feel quite clear about what I'm doing. That doesn't really change depending on the wicket."

# Women's T20 WC: Fulfilled dream of winning alongside Sophie and Suzie, says Amelia Kerr

AGENCIES  
DUBAI, OCT 21

All-rounder Amelia Kerr, who made 43 with the bat and picked up three wickets while battling cramps to put in a Player of the Match performance in the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup final win for New Zealand, said she fulfilled a childhood dream of her winning a big title alongside Sophie Devine and Suzie Bates.

"I was inspired to be a White Fern watching that 2010 World Cup which Sophie was at and from that moment I was at the nets with my dad pretending I was batting with Sophie and Suzie (Bates) and being in the team so young and playing with my role models who have been so good to me and two of New Zealand's greatest ever cricketers."



"I don't necessarily believe you deserve things in sport, but if any two people do, it's Sophie and Suzie. And I just think back to myself as a kid that was batting with Sophie

and Suzie in the nets. Like when I was at primary school in creative writing, I wrote about winning a World Cup with Sophie and Suzie."

"So, to be here now,

having done that, I think that's probably why I'm so emotional out on the field in the moment. It's something that's so special when I think back to my younger self and to be here now and to do it with two of New Zealand's best ever," said Amelia, who also turned out to be Player of the Tournament in the competition.

Talking about her superb all-round performance in the final, Amelia remarked, "I was probably struggling a little bit out there whilst batting and it was hot. I went through about 10 pairs of gloves, so I was sweating a lot. When I came off, had a nice bath, and then got out on the field and sprinted for one and felt my calf almost go and cramp up and then I bowled my first ball and the same feeling kind of happened."

# Kerala Blasters FC beat Mohammedan SC 2-1 in ISL

AGENCIES  
KOLKATA, OCT 21

Kerala Blasters FC pulled off a memorable 2-1 victory over Mohammedan SC at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan here on Sunday night, marking the first time in 27 games that they have won an away match after conceding first in the Indian Super League (ISL).

Two second-half strikes from Kwame Peprah and Jesus Jimenez saw Mikael Stahre's men secure their third consecutive victory in Kolkata, a feat they had never achieved in the competition.

Mirjalol Kasimov handed Mohammedan SC the lead, but the visitors showed resilience in the second half to produce a come-from-behind victory.

The visitors were off the blocks quickly, as Noah Sadaoui found the right tune from the start. The Moroccan posed all sorts of trouble for the Mohammedan SC backline, especially after combining with

Adrian Luna, who was pulling the strings from midfield.

However, the hosts weathered the early storm brilliantly and gradually imposed themselves on the match's tempo.

In the 20th minute, Mohammedan's pillar in defence, Joseph Adjei had to be substituted out after suffering an injury. Andrey Chernyshov turned to French defender Florent Ogier to replace the Ghanaian.

The next ten minutes saw the hosts dominate possession and also create a few chances. Their persistent nature in attack was rewarded when Kerala Blasters FC's debutant custodian, Som Kumar brought down Franca in the penalty area in the 27th minute, handing a penalty to Mohammedan SC. Mirjalol Kasimov stepped up and converted from the spot to hand a crucial lead to the hosts.

Mikael Stahre's men didn't bog down after

conceding the goal infact they were more spurred on to equalize. In the 34th minute, they almost managed to do so as Jesus Jimenez wriggled his way past multiple Mohammedan SC defenders before pulling the trigger. But the Spaniard's long-range effort was denied by the crossbar.

The second period saw both teams trying to take control of the possession in midfield. But the game swayed in the favour of the Blasters by Kwame Peprah's introduction in the 64th minute.

Within three minutes, the forward came up with the equalizer, latching onto a cross from Noah. Peprah was quick to react to the cross, leaving his marker, Zodingliana Ralte in complete awe before tucking it past Padam Chettri in goal.

Riding on the positive momentum of scoring an equalizer, the Blasters enjoyed the lion's share of possession and also created a flurry of chances.

# Sarfaraz's returns with the bat even more prodigious than his waistline: Gavaskar

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 21

Legendary India batter Sunil Gavaskar lauded Sarfaraz Khan for his attacking 150 in the recent first Test against New Zealand, adding that his batting returns were even more remarkable than his waistline.

After bagging a duck in the first innings, where India were bowled out for 46, Sarfaraz was at the forefront of India's second innings total of 462 through an attacking 150 - his maiden Test hundred - laced with 18 fours and three sixes.

He wowed cricket fans at M Chinnaswamy Stadium through his cheeky and unorthodox shots, especially through the square region in the off-side. "Sarfaraz Khan has been denied a place in the Indian team for some years now, despite scoring runs by the hundreds in domestic cricket.

"This was largely



because those in a position to make decisions believed he didn't have the slim waist they deemed necessary for international cricket. Sarfaraz's returns on the field with the bat were even more prodigious than his waistline. Sadly, Indian cricket has

had too many decision-makers with ideas that are hard to fathom," wrote Gavaskar in his column for Sportstar on Monday.

He also cited the example of wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant performing exceedingly well in Tests - like hitting a fine 99 in

Bengaluru and sharing a crucial 177-run stand with Sarfaraz in the second innings - despite not boasting of a super slim waistline.

"Rishabh Pant is another player who doesn't possess the slim waist that these fitness purists seem to want, but what an impact player he is. Let's not forget that he also keeps wickets all day, which not only requires getting up and down for around six hours of play but also running to the stumps to gather the throws."

"So, please discard these yoyo-yoyo tests and instead assess how strong a player is mentally. That will be a true indicator of a player's fitness. If a player can bat the whole day or bowl 20 overs in a day, he is match-fit, regardless of how slim or not his waist is."

Talking of India's eight-wicket defeat in Bengaluru, Gavaskar wondered if the Rohit Sharma-led side

not being able to deal with bounce could send them worried ahead of an all-important trip to Australia later this year.

"That their heroics went in vain, as the batters who followed them simply didn't have the technique or temperament to deal with a pitch that was different from the low-bounce ones where they dominate, only added to the frustration.

"If anything, the way the Indian batting has struggled in Chennai - where again there was some bounce - and now in Bengaluru, does make one anxious about what lies in store in Australia.

"Even the flattest of pitches there have more bounce than the usual Indian surfaces. That said, the Kookaburra ball should be an ally of the batters, as once a dozen overs or so have passed, the seam movement is almost negligible and batting becomes a lot easier," he concluded.

# TYGER INDIA KHELO FOOTBALL SEASON 4 TRIALS TO BE HELD IN TELANGANA

AGENCIES  
HYDERABAD, OCT 21

Tyger India Khelo Football Season 4 Trials will be held in Medak, Hyderabad, Khammam, Warangal, and Mahbubnagar in Telangana.

India Khelo Football (IKF), an innovative platform dedicated to transforming Indian football, and Tyger Capital, a financial solutions provider focused on empowering semi-urban and rural communities have tied up with Hyderabad

Little Stars Soccer Academy and South Clan Football Club, and are creating an ecosystem for young budding football talents.

This collaboration aims to revolutionize football in Telangana by discovering and nurtur-

ing untapped talent from different parts of the region.

Hyderabad leg of the Tyger IKF Season 4 Trials in association with Hyderabad Little Stars Soccer Academy will be held at Artillery Centre Football Ground behind Golconda Fort

in the city on October 26-27.

Boys and Girls born between 2007-2013 can register online by visiting <https://ndiakhelofootball.com/season4>. The same link can be used if anyone wants to register for Medak, Khammam, Waran-

gal and Mahbubnagar as well.

The players who will be attending the trials will be initially scouted from the city trials and will be eventually called for Zonal Finals and Finals where all ISL, I League, and top academies will be coming to scout

the players and make them a part of their ecosystem.

The idea of the platform India Khelo Football (a non Profit initiative) is to ensure that the players get a structured pathway so that they can pursue football professionally.



## National Police day observed across Jammu province

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 21

National Police Day, popularly known as Police Commemoration Day, was observed with solemnity across the Jammu Province. The day is observed in commemoration of the ten valiant martyrs of the CRPF who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on October 21, 1959. They laid down their lives in an ambush laid by heavily armed Chinese troops at Hot Springs, Ladakh, at an altitude of 4681 meters.

Impressive commemorative events were held in all ten districts of Jammu Province, with a large number of senior police officers, retired personnel, members of martyrs' families, and representatives of civil society participating in the solemn functions.

The main event in the winter capital was held at Gulshan Ground, Jammu, where Anand Jain, ADGP



Jammu Zone, took the ceremonial salute at the Commemoration Day Parade.

The event saw the participation of GOs of all Jammu-based units, along with senior and retired police officers, media personnel, and prominent citizens.

ADGP Jammu Zone, read out the names of the brave martyrs, which included personnel from police organizations and para military forces such as BSF, CRPF, ITBP, CISF, SSB, NCB, NDRF, and FS, CD, and HG.

In his address, he praised the invaluable contributions of these

martyrs, noting that J&K Police has been serving the nation and society with dedication and courage, often under the most hostile and challenging circumstances, and at the cost of their personal safety and comfort. He also prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls and extended his heartfelt wishes for the welfare and prosperity of their families.

Anand Jain paid rich tributes to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the unity and integrity of the nation over the past year. Following the ceremony, ADGP Jammu



Zone interacted with the next of kin (NOK) of the martyrs, listening attentively to their grievances and assuring them of full support and timely action on the requests they submitted.

Earlier, all Jammu-based GOs assembled at the Police Martyrs Memorial at the Railway Station, where floral tributes were paid to the martyrs. A blood donation camp was also organized at Police hospital Jammu in collaboration with GMC Jammu, in which some senior police officers and other volunteers donated 80 units of blood. Prominent among

those who attended the function included Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP Lok Sabha, Kavinder Gupta, former Dy. CM, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, senior serving officers of Army and J&K Police, retired senior officers from the Police department and distinguished personalities from the civil society.

In another impressive function organized in the evening at Police Martyrs Memorial Railway Station, Jammu, a large number of police and civil families assembled to light candles and pay rich tributes to the martyrs.

## Candlelight March held in Shopian to condemn recent killings of Civilians at Shopian & Ganderbal



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 21

In a strong show of unity and solidarity, a candlelight march was taken out on Monday evening at Shopian to condemn the recent brutal killings in Ganderbal and Shopian, where innocent civilians lost their lives. The march, led by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar, saw participation from district officers, officials of various depart-

ments, students, civil society members, activists, and the general public.

The march commenced from the Mini Secretariat with participants holding candles and raising slogans against the senseless violence.

The collective voice of the community resonated against the inhumane acts of terror, emphasizing the need for peace and harmony in the region.

Addressing the Media, the DC condemned the barbaric killings, describ-

ing them as an affront to humanity.

He reassured the public that every possible measure is being taken to identify and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The administration, along with security agencies are working tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of all residents," he said. The march concluded with a solemn tribute to the victims, as the people of Shopian stood together to reject violence and call for lasting peace.

## Education sector forms core of societal development: Sakeena

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 21

The Minister of School Education, Higher Education, Social Welfare and Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Masood, today convened an introductory meeting of School Education Department (SED) at Civil Secretariat here to review the functioning of the department.

During the meeting, Sakeena Itoo held detailed deliberations on various aspects of SED besides discussing issues and concerns of the department.

Addressing the officers, the Minister asserted that we need collaborative efforts for enhancing educational outcomes for students across the region. "Our primary goal is to ensure that every child receives quality education in line with requirements of today's scientific and digital world", Sakeena Masood asserted. She impressed upon all the



stakeholders to work closely and in coherence with one another to identify issues and implement innovative solutions for them.

While reviewing the human resource related issues of the department, Sakeena Masood directed the Principal Secretary to identify vacant posts at all levels and refer them to recruiting agencies for filling at the earliest. She also asked both the direc-

tors to organise training modules for teachers in their respective divisions to ensure that educators are equipped with the latest pedagogical skills.

While reviewing the infrastructure and other related issues of the department, Sakeena Masood impressed upon both the Directors to upgrade facilities at all Girls Hostels. She also asked for creating facilities of basic amenities in

all educational institutions on priority.

During the meeting, Sakeena Masood expressed commitment towards transparency and accountability within the department and directed all officers that delay of files will not be tolerated at all. She remarked that education is an important sector which forms the

core of societal development and we need to work with full commitment to ensure well being of our society. The meeting among others was attended by Principal Secretary, School Education department, Chairman SCERT, Secretary JKBOSE, Director School Education Jammu/Kashmir, Project Director Samagra Shiksha and other senior officers of the School Education Department.

## DLSA Kishtwar provides legal aid to fire affected families in Warwan under J&K Legal Services Authority Initiative

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 21

Under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority, a Special Team of DLSA Kishtwar, constituted by Manjeet Singh Manhas, Chairman DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge), under the supervision of Slahuddin Ahmed, Secretary DLSA, visited Village Mulwarwan, Tehsil Warwan, to provide legal aid services and assistance to the fire-affected families there.

The DLSA Kishtwar met with the fire-affected families and generated awareness about the provisions offering access to justice and legal rights.

The team apprised the families that due to such incidents, the victims often face various legal issues that impede their



recovery, such as loss of documentation, property disputes, access to compensation and lack of legal awareness.

It was also highlighted that DLSA would endeavour to assist the victims in the retrieval or reissuance of such documents by liaising with government departments and agencies. They further assured that the DLSA shall coordinate with the govern-

ment departments in the rehabilitation process and also for providing legal aid to the victims.

A legal aid helpdesk was also set up at the place of incident. The team comprised of Deputy Chief LADC Naveed Khurshid, Panel Lawyer Shaik Saroori, Adv. Azhar Shah, Adv. Ibrah Waza, Adv. Shahbaz Zahoor Sheikh and two PLVs.

## Power Shutdown

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 21

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, in order to carry out branch cutting, the shutdown of 33KV Nehalpora-Markundal line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Markundal, Naidkhai, Shahgund and Aglar shall remain off, while power supply to the Markundal, Naidkhai, Sumbal, Chandangeer, Ankul and Gandboon areas shall remain affected on 23 & 27 October from 09:00 am to 04:00 pm.

Also, to carry out clearance of TTC punch points of pending works like CT replacement of line bay, installation of arcing horns of Ptr, gantries lights installation, and 11KV isolator interlocking, the shutdown of 33KV Chadoora Panzan line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Panzan shall remain off while power supply to the Panzan area shall remain affected from 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 22nd October, 2024.

## DC, SSP pay tribute to Martyrs on Police Commemoration Day at DPL Baramulla



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 21

On the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, a solemn ceremony was held at District Police Lines (DPL) Baramulla to honor the police personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

The event was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Baramulla, Mohammad Zaid Malik, SP Baramulla Firoz Yehya and other

senior police officers.

The ceremony commenced with the laying of floral wreaths, by the DC, SSP and other officers, paying tribute to the brave souls who have dedicated their lives in ensuring peace, integrity and protecting the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the selfless service of the police personnel who have laid down their lives to protect citizens and maintain the sovereignty of the nation. He reaffirmed the adminis-

tration's commitment to supporting the families of the martyrs and honoring their memory.

SSP Baramulla expressed deep gratitude for the supreme sacrifices made by the fallen heroes, emphasizing that their legacy would continue to inspire future generations of law enforcement officers.

The event concluded with a ceremonial guard of honor and a pledge to uphold the values of duty, honor, and service that the martyrs exemplified.

## DDC Chairman Jammu reviews status of district Capex works

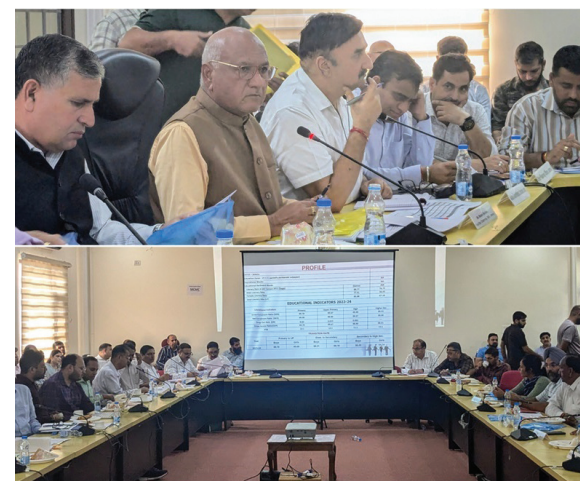
JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 21

District Development Council Chairman Jammu Bharat Bhushan today chaired a meeting of the council to review the progress of developmental works under Capex 2024-25 Budget.

The meeting witnessed participation of Vice Chairman Suraj Singh and all DDC members, besides Additional District Development Commissioner Sher Singh, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, ACD Dr. Vikas Sharma, AD Planning Satish Sharma and Block Development Officers. The focus was to assess the status of key projects and address the bottlenecks, if any, to ensure their timely completion.

The meeting took a comprehensive review of ongoing works of Power Development, Jal Shakti, School Education and Health, besides others.

The ADDC Sher Singh provided a detailed overview of the up to date status of developmental projects, facilitating productive dialogue between the DDC members and the district officers.



In his address, the Chairman stressed the need for systematic desilting of irrigation canals, emphasizing that the task must be carried out thoroughly, reaching the tail ends of the canals. "Desilting is crucial for ensuring that our agricultural lands receive the necessary water supply," he stated.

The DDC Chairman also highlighted the need to improve the district's power infrastructure. He called for timely execution of the Jal Jeevan Mission, urging departments to expedite ongoing works to meet project deadlines. He further urged officers to focus on strengthening the healthcare infra-

structure, with particular emphasis on enhancing the staff strength in rural health centres.

During the meeting, a resolution was also passed calling for funds to be allocated for the repair and renovation of tube wells and lift irrigation projects.

The Chairman reiterated the importance of keeping DDC members informed about the status of ongoing developmental works within their respective jurisdictions. He noted that close coordination between the members and district officers is vital for ensuring transparency and accountability in the execution of various projects.

## DC Poonch reviews petitions seeking Change of Land Use



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, OCTOBER 21

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to discuss and approved permissions regarding Change of Land Use (CLU) in the district.

While taking a comprehensive review, the DC enquired about the status of NOCs being issued in favour of applicants and applications received till date besides their reporting and follow up status by the concerned departments.

As many as 41 cases were put up for discussion; after thorough

deliberation on various aspects of the policies, 05 cases were deferred by the committee and 12 were rejected.

During the meeting, the DC directed concerned members to ensure timely issuance of NOCs to the applicants after proper verification of documents. He emphasized the importance of adhering to the guidelines and policies while considering CLU cases.

DFO Poonch, CEO PDA, GM DIC, Xen PWD, Xen I&FC, Xen JPDCCL, Chief Agriculture Officer and other concerned officers were present.