

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:

- Persistent vomiting
- Persistent bleeding
- Persistent weakness
- Persistent pain
- Persistent dizziness
- Persistent loss of appetite

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 11 | ISSUE NO: 249 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

GANGANGEER ATTACK

LG chairs security review, calls for securing all vital projects in J&K

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 22

Jammu and Kashmir's Governor Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday directed the police officers to secure all vital projects in J&K and to ensure fool-proof mechanism to prevent any security breach.

He stated this while chairing a security review meeting at Gangangeer, Ganderbal where seven persons including a doctor and six labourers were killed and several others



injured in a militant attack on Sunday. This was the first major attack on the

Z-Morh tunnel in over three decades, as per security officials. The attack

has sent security forces across J&K into a

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CM condoles family of Dr. Shahnawaz

J1NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, OCT 22

Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah Tuesday visited Naidgam, Budgam, to express his condolences to the family of Dr. Shahnawaz, who tragically lost his life in a targeted attack at Gagangeer, Ganderbal, on Sunday evening.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Chadoora Ali Mohammad Dar, MLA Beerwah Shafi Ahmad Wani, MLA Khansahib Saifuddin Bhat, Deputy Commissioner Budgam and other officials.



During his visit, Chief Minister conveyed his deepest sorrow over the untimely demise of Dr. Shahnawaz, acknowledging the profound loss suffered by the family.

He assured them that

the government stands firmly by their side during this difficult time, promising all possible assistance.

"The void caused by the death of Dr. Sahab cannot be filled, but we will do everything in our power

to support you," the Chief Minister said while consoling the grieving family.

"We are here to let you know that you are not alone in this moment of grief."

In a significant gesture, Omar Abdullah directed the Deputy Commissioner Budgam to immediately initiate the process of providing a government job to a family member under SRO-43, as well as relief and rehabilitation under other relevant schemes.

He further announced that the government would bear all expenses related to the civil

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Last rites of terror attack victim Shashi Abrol performed

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 22

Shashi Abrol, one of the seven victims of a recent terror attack in Ganderbal district, was cremated in a solemn ceremony on Tuesday. His wife, Ruchi Abrol, expressed the family's devastation and requested assistance for their children's education and a job to support them.

Member Parliament Jugal Kishore and Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary and were present at the Shaktinagar cremation ground to pay their

respects. "I have come here to express my condolences to the family and share their grief. The government will do everything possible to provide relief to the family," the deputy chief minister assured, as per news agency.

Shashi Abrol, an architectural designer, was among seven APCO Infratech employees killed in an attack on a tunnel construction site on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway on Sunday. The assault occurred after the workers returned to their camp late

in the evening in Gund, Ganderbal. Abrol had been employed by the construction company in Sonamarg for six years.

His body arrived in an ambulance from the Kashmir Valley on Monday late night, two months after his last visit for his son's admission. He leaves behind his wife Ruchi, son Ishan, a first-year engineering student, a three-year-old daughter, and his parents.

On the direction of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary along with Minister

for Agriculture Production and RDD, Javed Ahmed Dar attended the last rites of Shashi Bhushan Abrol.

The Deputy Chief Minister and Javed Ahmed Dar also met with father and other family members of the deceased and assured them all support from the J&K Government. They said that all their grievances would be addressed on priority basis. They also assured the bereaved family that the issue of providing compensation to them will be taken up with the concerned authorities.

While speaking with the

media persons, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the Government is committed to prevent these types of incidents besides focusing on maintaining peace and brotherhood in the region.

He strongly condemned the recent terror attack in Gagangeer, Ganderbal and also expressed his deep sorrow over the tragic loss of lives and assured full government support for the victims' families. Choudhary further stated that the feedback gathered from the family would be relayed to the Chief Minister upon his return to Srinagar.

Violence must end; killings will lead us nowhere: MP Er Rashid

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 22

Member of Parliament (MP) Er Rashid on Tuesday condemned the recent killings in Ganderbal, describing them as "highly unfortunate".

"Violence only begets more violence," Rashid said, according to the news agency.

The Baramulla MP urged all stakeholders, regardless of their affiliations, to end the cycle

of violence and prioritise dialogue.

"The Ganderbal incident is deeply regrettable. I appeal to all parties involved to understand that killings will not lead us anywhere. We must stop this violence, as it only fuels more destruction. Both state actors and non-state actors need to abandon the path of violence," he said.

Expressing his sorrow over the loss of lives, including a doctor and six

others, he said, "Human life is invaluable, and it should be respected, whether it's a civilian or anyone else. These tragedies should not happen, and we must come together to prevent further bloodshed."

During his visit to Handwara, the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) chief called for a political resolution to ongoing issues. "Whatever the issues are, they should be resolved at

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Our research and creation of new knowledge should be dedicated for benefit of humanity: LG Sinha

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 22

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated 'International Conference on Endocrinology, Metabolism and Reproduction: Exploring New Frontiers' at University of Jammu, today.

In his address, the Lt Governor appreciated the endeavour of the Department of Zoology, University of Jammu and Indian Society for Comparative Endocrinology to explore cutting-edge advancements in Endocrinology and other crucial fields.

The Lt Governor emphasised Scientists' and Academicians' crucial role in the well-being of society and how their pursuit of excellence will



ensure a healthy society and give a boost to larger vision of nation-building. "Our research and creation of new knowledge should be dedicated for the benefit of humanity," he said.

"Stress is real and all the scientists and researchers should work together to harness the potential of research, innovation to produce path-breaking discoveries for preven-

tion and management of chronic lifestyle diseases," the Lt Governor said.

Speaking on India's emergence as a global leader in healthcare, the Lt Governor said, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has seen tremendous improvement in healthcare research and development. The way India handled

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LG inaugurates 'Jashn-e-Sangam'

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 22

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday inaugurated 'Jashn-e-Sangam', at Tagore Hall Srinagar.

In his address, the Lt Governor appreciated the efforts of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti for organizing the 3-day Literary fest dedicated to promote art, culture and language.

Jammu & Kashmir has rich cultural diversity in the form of art, literature, music, folk and traditions, which bind the people together. The events like 'Jashn-e-Sangam' also bring people from different regions, languages and cultures on common platform to celebrate unity and shared cultural roots with the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor lauded



the significant contribution of writers, poets, literary personalities of Kashmir in promotion of Hindi.

"Non-Hindi speaking people have contributed immensely to promote Hindi language," he said.

The Lt Governor said the promotion of Hindi and other languages among students in non-Hindi-speaking regions is recognized as a vital initiative. Hindi cinema has its outreach all over the

world and has contributed immensely in promotion of Hindi language. Similarly, regional languages have made immense contribution in literature, culture and nation building. Also, the NEP 2020 has emphasised on promotion of mother tongue, local and regional language as medium of instruction in schools. Such efforts reinforce the values of unity, cultural pride, and shared expression, he added.

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CM Omar directs strict adherence to power curtailment schedule



J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 22

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday directed Power Development Department (PDD) to strictly adhere to the announced power curtailment schedule, emphasising that he will personally oversee its implementation on day-to-day basis during the winter months.

The Chief Minister made these remarks while chairing a comprehensive review meeting of the PDD, a department under his portfolio, to assess its preparedness ahead of the winter season in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, and Principal Secretary PDD Rajesh H. Prasad and other concerned.

"Once a curtailment schedule is announced, we must ensure it is followed rigorously, otherwise our credibility is at stake. We need to re-examine the schedule, considering the resources

currently available to us and what we anticipate in the near future," the Chief Minister stressed.

He further reiterated the importance of strict compliance with the schedule once it is finalized. "I will personally monitor the situation on a daily basis, especially as winter sets in," he said.

The Chief Minister also emphasized that the curtailment schedule must remain fair and equitable, without any influence from political or other external forces. "There must be no interference from those with political or other forms of influence. The schedule should be transparent and fair for all," he added.

In an effort to incentivize efficiency, the Chief Minister suggested that areas demonstrating better management of electricity usage should be rewarded. "Reward those areas that are more efficient in managing curtailment. The schedule should be localized and reflect performance, particularly in areas where AT&C losses are lower," he advised.

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Good News Soon, mulling to double ration quota; allotment of 12 gas cylinders a year soon: Minister Satish Sharma

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 22

Jammu and Kashmir cabinet minister, Satish Sharma on Tuesday said the government was mulling to double the ration quota per family and good news will be shared soon. He also said that allotment of 12 gas a year will be a reality soon.

Talking to the media persons here, Sharma as per the news agency, said that the ration supply to

the people will be doubled soon, adding that the people will get good news in this regard shortly.

However, he said that no discussion has been made over passing the resolution in the assembly, but stated that "the Statehood is our right. The state belongs to us and the restoration of Statehood must be ensured. Nobody is going to favour us and I believe that New Delhi will ensure its restoration."

Replying to a query,

Sharma said that "I assure you that this will be one of the finest and wonderful governments you have ever seen because the chief minister is very clear. Omar Abdullah means development, results and execution. You would have never seen such a chief minister before. We are working as a team and will make Kashmir and India beautiful together."

About Darbar Move, he said that the

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CM releases Rs 1.70 crore to fire victims of Malwarwan, Kishtwar

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 22

Jammu and Kashmir government has granted a financial assistance of Rs 1.70 crore in favour of the fire affected families of Malwarwan village of tehsil Warwan of district Kishtwar.

As per the news agency, the amount has been sanctioned by the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today.

The amount has been transferred to the official account of Deputy Commissioner Kisht-

war bearing number 0570010200001310 by the Director Finance.

In a letter issued to the DC Kishtwar, Director Finance wrote, "The Chief Minister is pleased to sanction amount of 170 lakh out of the J&K relief fund as financial assistance in favour of fire affected sufferers of Malwarwan. The said amount has been transferred to your official account through NEFT for its further disbursement amount the 85 fire sufferers @ Rs 2 lakh per sufferer."

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Pak drone spotted near LoC, Army troops open fire

AGENCIES
JAMMU, OCT 22

Alert Indian troops Tuesday early morning fired few rounds on spotting Pakistani drone hovering close to the Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. Official sources said the drone coming from across the border was spotted close to the vicinity of the LoC, adding, "Indian Army troops fired few rounds to neutralise the threat." "Suspecting drone dropping, a search operation was launched in the area," they said.

Two-Week Inter-Disciplinary Research Workshop on "Advanced Analytical Instrumentation Tools & Techniques" inaugurated at GDC Baramulla

JNEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 22

A first of its kind, two-week Inter-Disciplinary Research Workshop on "Advanced Analytical Instrumentation Tools & Techniques" was inaugurated today at Govt. Degree College (GDC) Baramulla (Autonomous). Organized by the Research Committee of the college, the workshop aims to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical skills in analytical research.

The program will run until 4th November 2024, featuring a series of hands-on sessions on advanced research tools and techniques and was attended by over 40 participants from various colleges and universities of the J&K.

Prof. Mohammad Shafi Lone, Principal of the college, presided over the inaugural session. In his

address, he emphasized the value of such workshops in empowering students and researchers with contemporary skills necessary for academic and professional success.

The themes and objectives of the workshop were comprehensively outlined by Dr. Humaira Qadri, Dean Research. She emphasized the workshop's focus on developing technical competence and promoting research innovation.

She stated that the workshop is significantly relevant in the age of Artificial Intelligence which is becoming a greater competition for the teacher.

Prof. Tariq Ahmad Chalkoo, Staff Secretary and Dean Skill Development, highlighted the significance of staying abreast of recent advancements in



technology, especially in the age of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) and AI (Artificial Intelligence). He underscored the transformative impact of these technologies on modern pedagogies and encouraged participants to actively engage in the upcoming sessions.

Earlier, Dr. Syed Mutahar Aaqib, Coordinator IQAC and Member of the Research Committee, conducted the proceedings of the inaugural session. In his opening remarks, he provided an

overview of the workshop's relevance to current research demands. He highlighted the importance of a holistic approach to research that integrates traditional methodologies with advanced instrumentation techniques.

The inaugural function concluded with remarks from Dr. Abdul Roof Bhat, Dean of Academic Affairs, who emphasized the importance of practical training in research. He expressed confidence that the workshop would serve as a valuable platform for developing participants' skills and preparing them for future research challenges.

Following the inaugural session, the first technical session was conducted by the college's Clinical Bio-

chemistry Department Lab by Prof. Rukhsana Akhter, Dr. Irfan Maqbool, and Dr. Mashooq Ahmad Dar (Postdoctoral fellow from Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland), focusing on basic diagnostic techniques like Blood Glucose and Kidney Function Tests.

The session involved practical demonstrations of blood sample collection, the application of reagents, and subsequent analysis, providing participants with a solid understanding of both the theoretical and practical aspects of these essential diagnostic tools.

Participants were guided through the accurate use of reagents and interpretation of results, highlighting the relevance of these techniques in both research and medical contexts.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Manesh Kumar Manhas; GM DIC Parajeet Singh; ARTO Rajesh Gupta; Assistant Director Employment Nehal Pandit; LDM Parveen Kumar; J&K Bank Officials and concerned officers/officials of the district. The meeting reviewed employment

Implementation of Self-Employment Schemes reviewed in Doda District



JNEWS SERVICE

DODA, OCTOBER 22

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Harvinder Singh today chaired a meeting to review the progress made under different self-employment schemes in Doda district. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Manesh Kumar Manhas; GM DIC Parajeet Singh; ARTO Rajesh Gupta; Assistant Director Employment Nehal Pandit; LDM Parveen Kumar; J&K Bank Officials and concerned officers/officials of the district. The meeting reviewed employment

generated under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Implementation of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)-UMED, Support provided to entrepreneurs through District Industries Centre, benefits provided under Tejaswini, Mukmin, Spurring entrepreneurship and Credit Card Schemes in the district. The DDC directed the concerned officer/officials to expedite processing of loan applications, increase awareness about schemes through outreach programs and provide necessary handholding support to entrepreneurs.

MLA Shopian chairs introductory/review meeting with District & Sectoral Officers

JNEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 22

The Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Shopian, Shabir Ahmad Kullay today chaired an introductory cum review meeting with district and sectoral officers of the district at Mini Secretariat, Shopian.

The Officers from R&B, Jal Shakti, Health, School Education, Irrigation, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, etc presented the department wise activities, development and welfare initiatives being undertaken in the Shopian Assembly Constituency.

District Capex 2023-24 and 2024-25 achievements and ongoing works were also highlighted during the review meeting by respective district Officers.

On the occasion, MLA took stock of various developmental issues pertaining to road connecti-



ty, water supply issues, MC Shopian activities including beautification, health, school education, accelerating irrigation canals network, rural development, horticulture, agriculture works and schemes and other issues of public importance.

The MLA discussed and deliberated on various public welfare measures and sought details of ongoing activities and requirements, department wise.

While addressing the inaugural meeting with

Officers, the MLA sought fullest cooperation of departments in strengthening the public service delivery.

Earlier, District Development Commissioner Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar in his inaugural speech apprised about the district profile, vital projects under execution. The meeting was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ACR, CPO, GM DIC, CEO, CMO, ExEns, other district and sectoral officers.

Status of works under District JJM reviewed at Kupwara

JNEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 22

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting to review the status of various works under District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM) in district Kupwara.

Addressing the meeting, the DDC stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure completion of all ongoing works by adhering to the deadlines already fixed for completion of different water supply scheme projects. She enjoined upon them to work in tandem and maintain close communication among their departments for earlier removal of bottlenecks to ensure that the work on any project is not hindered.

During the meeting, it was informed that 251 works have been tendered in PHE Division Handwara, PHE Division Kup-



wara, SSD Tangdar and Ground Water Division. Out of these, 246 works have been allotted, of which 85 works have been completed so far and work is space on the rest of the projects.

Regarding the status of Dug wells, it was informed that out of the 14 Dug Wells allotted in PHE Division Kupwara and PHE Division Handwara, 10 works stand

completed. Besides, construction of 21 bore-wells has also been completed.

The DDC also took a detailed review of various works pertaining to the Rapid Sand Filtration Plant, Over Head Tanks, Pipe Network works and Electro-Mechanical Schemes. She also took review of the division wise Forest Clearance cases and directed the officers of the

concerned departments to work in tandem and maintain close communication for earlier disposal of cases so that the work on the projects are not hindered.

Chief Education Officer Kupwara, CPO, Executive Engineers from PHE Division Kupwara/Handwara/Tangdar, R&B Division and other concerned attended the meeting.

JKSPYM Master Volunteers imparted training to combat substance abuse in Rajouri District

JNEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 22

The Jammu and Kashmir Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses (JKSPYM) State Level Coordinating Agency (SLCA) on Tuesday organized a one-day training program for Master Volunteers of District Rajouri under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA).

The event, held at Dak Bungalow Rajouri, was conducted in collaboration with the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, and the District Administration, Rajouri. As many as 85 master volunteers participated in the training, which was designed to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to combat substance abuse and reduce drug demand in the district Rajouri.

District Program Officer CDS Fareed Ahmed Kohli and District Social Welfare Officer Abdul Raheem also attended the event.

In his address, Kohli expressed deep concern over the rising problem of drug use among the youth in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. He urged the master volunteers to make the most of the training and fully absorb the knowledge shared during the sessions.

Resource persons from SLCA J&K delivered in-depth presentations that covered the alarming prevalence of drug use in India. The training was divided into four key sessions including Information on Drugs, Drug Use, and its Consequences, District-Level Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, Intervention Spectrum in Drug Treatment and Prevention & Roles and Responsibilities of Master Volunteers/Nasha Mukta Bharat Leaders.

The program not only enhanced the participants' understanding of the substance abuse crisis but also empowered them to become active change-makers in their communities. The event concluded with the distribution of certificates, symbolizing the beginning of their journey as advocates for a healthier, drug-free Rajouri.

Chief Justice inspects District Courts at Kulgam

JNEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, OCTOBER 22

Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Tashi Rabstan, today visited Kulgam to conduct a comprehensive inspection of District Court Complex besides reviewing progress on construction of the new court complex in the district.

The visit aimed to assess the adequacy of present judicial infrastructure and ensuring that the ongoing construction of new complex is proceeding as per schedule.

On his arrival, Justice Tashi Rabstan accompanied by M K Sharma, Principal Secretary was warmly welcomed and received by Aijaz Ahmad Khan, PDJ (Chairman, DLSA) Kulgam, Athar ul Shafi Khan, Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal, SSP, Kulgam, Parvaiz Iqbal Additional District and Sessions Judge, Muzamil Wani, Sub Judge, Secretary, DLSA Kulgam and others from legal fraternity and civil administration. A ceremonial guard of honour was also accorded to the Chief Justice.

During his visit, the Chief Justice examined the facilities available for litigants, lawyers and judicial officers in the district. He interacted with the judicial officers and legal pro-



fessionals to gain insights into their concerns regarding space constraints and infrastructural needs.

Justice Tashi Rabstan emphasized the necessity of providing an enabling environment to ensure smooth functioning of the courts and better access to justice for the people of Kulgam.

In an interaction with the judicial officers, the Chief Justice laid emphasis on uploading all details of cases for access to litigants to ease administration of justice. He stressed upon the new judicial officers to perform their duty in a professional manner while ensuring speedy disposal of cases.

The Chief Justice also participated in the special plantation drive by planting a Chinar sapling in ADR Complex after interacting with the Legal Aid Defense

Counsels. Justice Tashi Rabstan also inspected construction site of the new court complex, which is expected to significantly boost the district's judicial infrastructure. He reviewed the project status and issued on-spot instructions to the executing agency to expedite the construction process by adhering to timelines and quality standards. He instructed the agency to complete the project as quickly as possible without compromising on structural integrity.

The Chief Justice emphasized that the new court complex will be equipped with modern amenities, including digital facilities to streamline judicial processes and enhance the overall experience for litigants and legal professionals. He pointed out that once completed, the

complex will cater to the growing needs of the judiciary in Kulgam and provide a more efficient and accessible judicial system.

In a meeting with senior officers from the Civil and Police Administration, including the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police, Justice Tashi Rabstan discussed issues related to judicial infrastructure, security of court premises and allocation of resources for development of additional facilities. He stressed the importance of coordination between the judiciary and administration to ensure the timely completion of infrastructure projects.

The Chief Justice further highlighted the High Court's commitment towards upgrading judicial infrastructure across the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh by ensuring that all court complexes are equipped with modern amenities, including digital facilities for e-courts and virtual hearings. He called for collective efforts from all stakeholders to bridge any infrastructural gaps and ensure efficient court functioning.

Summer Internship on Digital Literacy concludes at GDC Ramgarh

JNEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, OCTOBER 22

Government Degree College Ramgarh in collaboration with District Hub for empowerment of women "Mission Shakti" (Social Welfare Department), organized "Summer Internship programme on Digital Literacy" for students of 5th semester.

The internship program under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao culminated today with an awareness cum certificate distribution programme. The event was organized under the guidance and supervision of the Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Geetanji Andotra with the support of faculty members.

Dr. Ruchi Thakur District Mission Coordinator SANKALP: Hub for empowerment of women, Mission Shakti, along with gender specialists Mansi Abrol and Ritika Banotra attended the event and highlighted the department's unvarying commitment towards women's empowerment. The program featured a captivating nukkad natak presented by Ravi Dutt and his team, which illustrated the critical message of saving and educating daughters. The performance emphasized the significance of female education in empowering girls



and enhancing their future prospects.

Earlier, a one-month digital literacy computer course was organized in the College, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department. Upon successful completion of this course, certificates were awarded to the participating students, along with bags provided by the Social Welfare Department. The event also included a prize distribution ceremony, where bags were given to the toppers of Semester III and Semes-

ter V, recognizing their outstanding academic achievements.

Principal Prof. (Dr.) Geetanji Andotra expressed her heartfelt thanks to the resource person Mr. Gulshan Dubey and members of the Social Welfare Department for their invaluable contributions. The program was attended by all the faculty members and students of the college. Lastly, refreshments were also served to all students by the social welfare department, Samba.

Enforcement of Road Safety measures reviewed in Kathua

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, OCTOBER 22

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Dr. Rakesh Minhas chaired the 20th District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) meeting here today. The discussions focus on enhancing traffic management and road safety across the district.

The meeting was attended by the Superintendent Engineer, ASP, Chief Education Officer, ARTO, Executive Engineers from different divisions, and representatives from the NHAI, municipalities, and local degree colleges.

The DDC asked for reinforcement of road safety measures, such as the installation of traffic lights, crash barriers and speed breakers in accident-prone areas, besides refurbishment of road signage.

Dr. Minhas stressed the importance of spreading mass awareness on road safety and directed municipal authorities to remove unnecessary obstructions in town areas to ease traffic congestion.

The committee announced the construction of four new bus stops under CSR funding within the Municipal Council limits, including areas near the degree colleges



in Kathua town, to provide designated boarding points for commuters.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all departments to collaborate in maintaining road safety standards, emphasizing regular monitoring of speed limits, road maintenance, and the prompt repair of damaged infrastructure. He issued specific instructions to the PWD, PMGSY, and NHAI to expedite the completion of key road connectivity projects.

The DC also directed the CEO of the Municipal Council Kathua to pursue funding for the revamp of the Kathua Bus Stand.

The committee also examined accident-prone areas identified by the police, outlining measures to minimize road accidents.

Other topics discussed included the construction of bridges over Sawan Chak-Dreamland Park road, improving the road to GDC Hiranagar, intensifying Road Safety Club activities, upgrading the Thein Dam-View Point road, and identifying an auto stand near GMC Kathua.

The meeting concluded with a firm commitment from all stakeholders to strengthen road safety initiatives across the district.

DC inaugurates 'DIDI KI RASOI' Canteen in DC Office Complex Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 22

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, today inaugurated the 'DIDI KI RASOI' canteen here in the DC Office Complex. The canteen offers a variety of home-cooked meals at affordable prices and is being operated by Women self-help Groups created under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission.

The initiative holds twin purposes of encouraging business activities of NULM Women Self Help Groups and to provide affordable and nutritious meals to government employees, visitors, DC office staff, and the general public, promoting health and well-being in the district.

Dignitaries present at the inauguration included Auditor EDB Bank SL Bharadwaj; Manager of EDB Deepak Kumar Joshi; government officials and representatives from the District Urban Development Agency (DUDA), including Harish Verma, Manager of Social Mobilization besides members of the community, along with organizers from different self-help groups, also participated in the event.

Briefing the media, the DC praised the initiative, highlighting its significant role in promoting women's empowerment. She applauded the efforts of Project Officer Jaffar Abass Bhatt for his leadership in launching the canteen and encouraged broader community support for such initiatives.



Jaffar Abass Bhatt noted that this is the second 'Didi Ki Rasoi' canteen inaugurated under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission in Udhampur District. He expressed his gratitude to the DC for her continued support and emphasized the canteen's potential to provide sustainable income opportunities to self-help group members and staff.

This initiative aligns with the goals of DAY-NULM, which focuses on uplifting the urban poor by enhancing sustainable livelihood opportunities through skill development. The 'Didi Ki Rasoi' canteen marks a significant step toward women's empowerment and self-sufficiency in Udhampur, with additional canteens planned to be inaugurated across the district in the near future.

DLSA Budgam organises Awareness program on JK Legal Services Act at GBHSS Budgam



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 22

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam Tuesday organised an awareness program on the JK Legal Services Act at Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Budgam.

The program, held under the guidance of Chairman DLSA/Pr. District and Sessions Judge Budgam and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/Secretary DLSA Budgam aimed to educate students, staff, about their rights and responsibilities under the Act.

The program was attended by the school staff members, students, DLSA staff and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Budgam.

The Speakers emphasized

the importance of the Prevention of Legal Services Act. The presentation given on the occasion not only informed participants about the legal framework of the Act but also highlighted the significance of creating a safe and respectful environment for all.

The enthusiastic participation of the students demonstrated their keen interest in learning about the Act. They actively engaged in discussions, raised pertinent questions, and received clear answers from the resource person.

The program served as a valuable platform for open discussions and interactive sessions, enabling students to clear their doubts and gain a deeper understanding of the Legal Services Act.

MVD Anantnag organizes Health Camp



J1 NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 22

The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) of Anantnag, in collaboration with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Anantnag, organized a free health camp specifically for drivers and transport workers.

This initiative aimed to

enhance the well-being of drivers by providing essential health services, including vital eye examinations crucial for road safety.

The event drew a significant turnout of drivers and transport workers, who benefited from free medical consultations and vision tests, alongside guidance on maintaining

good health while on the road. This camp is part of MVD's ongoing efforts to ensure that drivers are physically fit to operate vehicles safely.

Dr. Showkat Bhat, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Anantnag addressed participants during the event, highlighting the importance of adhering to road safety measures. He provided key safety instructions such as avoid Rash Driving, avoid using Mobile Phones while Driving and other Safety Precautions such as Drivers were advised to regularly maintain their vehicles, use seatbelts, avoid driving under the influence of alcohol, and follow all traffic rules to minimize accident risks.

The MVD and CMO Anantnag reaffirmed their commitment to promoting road safety and driver health, announcing plans for similar health camps in the future.

DC Bandipora reviews functioning of Revenue Department

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 22

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Tuesday chaired a meeting at the Mini Secretariat to review the functioning of the Revenue Department. The meeting discussed various key indicators of the Revenue Department in detail, including the digitization of jamabandis, the eviction status of state land, the status of Kahcharai land, online services under the Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA), and other important revenue matters.

It was informed that 57 jamabandis have been frozen out of 124 digitized jamabandis.

It was also reported that, out of 20,925 kanals of encroached land, 13,994 kanals have been evicted so far.

With regard to Kahcharai land, the chair was apprised that 18,383 kanals of Kahcharai land have been evicted out of 20,887 kanals of encroached land.

The DC directed the concerned officials to complete the quality check of digitized jamabandis and



to finalize the freezing process within three weeks.

Reviewing the status of online services under the PSGA, the DC stressed the importance of properly disposing-off files on online portals as per the guidelines of the Act. He warned of strict action and penalties for officers and officials who fail to adhere to the timeline prescribed under the PSGA.

He also instructed the revenue officers to regularly monitor the status of cases on online portals to prioritize public service delivery.

The DC emphasized the quick response of officers in relief cases and directed the concerned to prioritize genuine relief cases.

He also reviewed the status of RTI applications, LG grievances, pending cases under SRO 43, and CLU cases.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADC Zaffar Hussain Shawl, ACR, SDM Sumbal, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, and other concerned officials. Additionally, SDM Gurez and Tehsildars from the Gurez Subdivision attended virtually.

DLSA Kathua hosts Legal Awareness Program on Legal Services Institutions, Role of Paralegal Volunteers

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, OCTOBER 22

A legal awareness programme on the functions of Legal Services Institutions, the role of paralegal volunteers, and the process of applying for legal aid was held here today under the guidance of Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kathua Jatinder Singh Jamwal, (Principal District and Sessions Judge, Kathua) and Secretary, DLSA Kamiya Singh Andotra

The programme was attended by paralegal volunteers, staff of the DLSA Kathua, and the Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel.

The Secretary DLSA Kathua emphasized the critical role paralegal volunteers play as intermediaries between the public and Legal Services Institutions. She highlighted that their work is essen-



tial for removing barriers to accessing justice, noting that paralegal volunteers serve as the "eyes and ears" of the Legal Services Authority.

The Secretary further urged the volunteers to spread awareness among citizens under the banner of "Legal Aid - Your Right," helping people understand their rights and access legal assistance without fear or prejudice.

Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel Puneet

Kumari also addressed the gathering, reminding the volunteers of their moral and social responsibilities. She encouraged them to fulfill their duties as outlined by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and to perform their roles in accordance with the law.

The event aimed to enhance the understanding of legal aid processes and strengthen the role of paralegal volunteers in ensuring justice for all.

CMO Office Samba gets generous donation under CSSR



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, OCTOBER 22

District Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) Office Samba has received a generous donation under the Corporate Social Responsibility Scheme (CSSR),

The donation including essential furniture and office supplies such

as chairs, tables, and almirahs was presented to the CMO office by Sun Pharma Private Ltd. in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vidhi Bhutial expressed heartfelt gratitude to the representatives of Sun Pharma, which included Uday

Chintwar (plant head), Priyanka (CSR head) and Ajay Koul for their valuable contribution.

This support will significantly enhance the working environment and efficiency of the office, ultimately benefiting the healthcare services provided to the community.

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2024

In continuation to already announced Festival Special Trains-2024, Railways have planned to run following additional Festival Special trains as per detail given below :-

04608/04607 Jammu Tawi-Howrah-Jammu Tawi Reserved Festival Special Train						04 Trips
Train No. 04608	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 04607	ARR.	DEP.
---	20:20	---	Jammu Tawi	15:20	---	---
13:20	---	---	Howrah	---	23:45	---

Days of Run : 04608 Ex. Jammu Tawi on 30.10.2024 & 04.11.2024 and 04607 Ex. Howrah on 01.11.2024 & 06.11.2024

Accommodation : 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy
Stoppages : Pathankot Cantt., Jalandhar Cantt., Dhandari Kalan, Chandigarh, Ambala Cantt., Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Hardoi, Lucknow, Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratappgarh Jn., Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Gaya, Koderma, Dhanbad Jn., Asansol Jn., Durgapur & Bardhaman Stations.

04680/04679 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Kamakhya-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Reserved Festival Special Train						04 Trips
Train No. 04680	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 04679	ARR.	DEP.
---	18:40	---	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	06:20	---	---
21:00	---	---	Kamakhya	---	06:00	---

Days of Run : 04680 Ex. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on 28.10.2024 & 02.11.2024 and 04679 Ex. Kamakhya on 31.10.2024 & 05.11.2024

Accommodation : 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy
Stoppages : Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan, Jammu Tawi, Pathankot Cantt., Jalandhar Cantt., Dhandari Kalan, Chandigarh, Ambala Cantt., Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn., Nalgachia, Kathar Jn., Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri Jn., New Cooch Behar, New Bongaigaon & Goalpara Town Stations.

04662/04661 Amritsar Jn.-Saharsa-Amritsar Jn. Reserved Festival Special Train						04 Trips
Train No. 04662	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 04661	ARR.	DEP.
---	20:10	---	Amritsar Jn.	18:20	---	---
05:00	---	---	Saharsa	---	10:00	---

Days of Run : 04662 Ex. Amritsar Jn. on 29.10.2024 & 03.11.2024 and 04661 Ex. Saharsa on 31.10.2024 & 05.11.2024

Accommodation : 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General
Stoppages : Beas Jn., Jalandhar City Jn., Dhandari Kalan, Sirhind, Rajpura, Ambala Cantt., Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur Jn., Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn. & Simri Bhatkhatyarpur Stations.

04520/04519 Ambala Cantt.-Darbhanga-Amritsar Jn. Reserved Festival Special Train						02 Trips
Train No. 04520	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 04519	ARR.	DEP.
---	---	---	Amritsar Jn.	06:30	---	---
---	---	---	Jalandhar City	03:35	03:40	---
---	19:00	---	Ambala Cantt.	02:05	02:15	---
19:00	---	---	Darbhanga	---	21:30	---

Days of Run : 04520 Ex. Ambala on 25.10.2024 and 04519 Ex. Darbhanga on 26.10.2024

Accommodation : 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General
Stoppages : Amritsar Jn., Jalandhar City, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn. Stations.

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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Candle Light March held at Bandipora to condemn recent civilian killings

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 22

A candlelight march was held in Bandipora to express grief and solidarity with the victims of the tragic civilian killings at Gagangir, Ganderbal, where one local doctor and six non-local workers lost their lives.

People in large numbers assembled at Har-mukh Chowk on Tuesday evening to condemn and denounce the civilian killings.

The peaceful march,



which took place in the evening, aimed to condemn the horrific violence and to stand united against such acts.

Participants carried candles as a symbol of peace and remembrance for the deceased, while

also calling for justice for the victims and an end to violence besides expressed deep sorrow over the incident.

The march witnessed the participation of people from different walks of life.

Sakeena Masood visits SKIMS, takes stock of well being of injured persons of Gagangeer attack



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 22

Minister of Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare, School Education and Higher Education departments, Sakeena Masood Itoo today visited Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, to take stock of well being of injured persons of recent Gagangeer attack.

During the visit, the Minister was briefed by a team of senior doctors about conditions and health status of injured persons as well as the medical procedures being followed for their effective treatment.

Sakeena Masood, during the visit, interacted with injured persons and sought their well being. She assured them of all possible support.

Interacting with doctors and paramedics on the

occasion, Sakeena Masood asked them to ensure best medical treatment for the injured for their prompt recovery.

She also asked the Hospital Administration to ensure that all necessary medical resources are made accessible at the hospital for better treatment of patients and in case seek opinions from other hospitals for their effective treatment.

On the sidelines of the visit, Sakeena Masood also inspected the Critical Care unit and Emergency wards of the SKIMS.

During the inspection, Sakeena emphasized on the importance of maintaining quality patient care and effective emergency response systems at the hospital, highlighting that being one of the premiere health facility of Kashmir, people have lot of hopes from its patient care.

Divisional Administration rebuts rumors of pressurising migrant labourers to leave Valley

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 22

In a bid to ward-off the rumours regarding Administration forcing non-local workers to leave Kashmir, the Divisional Administration Kashmir has clarified on such news, terming it baseless, holding no merits.

As per an official statement, the Divisional Administration has informed that it has taken all the required measures to ensure safety and security of non-local workers in the Valley. The rumors spread on social media platforms regarding the Administration pressurizing non-local workers to leave the Valley are false.

Meanwhile, the Administration has asked everyone to desist from amplifying the unfounded rumours and sought cooperation of locals to defeat the agenda of vested interested individuals to derail the peace in Valley.

Administration reiterated its commitment to ensure safety of non-local workers.

Week-long sports event inaugurated at District Jail Anantnag

J1 NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 22

The Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Anantnag today inaugurated a week-long sports event at District Jail Anantnag in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports.

This initiative, which commenced today and is scheduled to culminate on 30th October 2024, is designed to promote a spirit of competition, teamwork, and overall well-being among the inmates, offering them an opportunity to engage in meaningful physical activities during their time in custody.

In his address at the inaugural function, Secretary DLSA emphasized the significant role sports can play in the rehabilitation process of inmates. He underscored how such events can help to alleviate the psychological stress and emotional strain.

By encouraging physical activity, the initiative seeks to build a more positive and healthy environment within the jail, while also helping inmates develop discipline and confidence, the qualities that are essential for their reintegration into society post-release, he said.

The event includes a variety of sports such as football, volleyball, and athletics, all aimed at engaging the inmates in healthy competition while promoting a sense of normalcy and routine.

The DYS&SO Anantnag acknowledged the efforts of the Department of Youth Services and Sports for their collaboration and extended his gratitude to the jail authorities for facilitating the event. He expressed his belief that such events are crucial in helping inmates acquire skills, develop character, and maintain physical fitness, which can be invaluable when they eventually return to society.

Candlelight March organised at Kupwara against killing of civilians at Sonamarg by militants

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, OCTOBER 22

A Candlelight March was held at Kupwara to protest against the killing of seven civilians – a local doctor and six non-local workers in a militant attack at a construction site in central Kashmir's Ganderbal on Sunday (October 20, 2024) evening.

The civil society Kupwara took to the streets on Monday evening and held a candlelight vigil to denounce the civilian killings.

The protesting members collectively denounced the killings, which they believe are against the spirit of humanity.

As a mark of protest, the Civil Society Kupwara held a Candlelight March from Bus stand Kupwara, passed through by-pass Kupwara, culminating at martyr's memorial Rigipora, expressing their



sympathies with the families of the innocent civilians of the target killings by militants.

The protesters denounced the attack and expressed solidarity with the families of the

civilians killed. "Killing innocent civilians is the biggest crime, and the perpetrators must be punished for their actions. It's against the ethos of humanity," protestors said.

DC calls for accelerating School Projects in Reasi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, OCTOBER 22

Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan on Tuesday chaired a crucial meeting to review the status of abandoned and incomplete school buildings constructed under the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The meeting, attended by officials from the Education Department, XENs, focused on assessing the progress of 38 projects and formulating actionable solutions to address the stalled infrastructure projects across the district.

During the review, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of completing these projects by resolving the

bottlenecks, if any. He instructed officials to make effective use of buildings by shifting, clubbing and converging them, especially schools in close vicinity to each other. He also urged all stakeholders to accelerate efforts and instructed to order an inquiry if any teacher was found absent from duty without taking leave. He also directed zonal education officers to take classes themselves. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to submit a detailed action plan within a set timeframe to expedite the completion of these critical projects. He further highlighted the need for regular monitoring and collaboration among the stakeholder departments to avoid further delays.

GHSS Boys Doda hosts solidarity program on solid waste management

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 22

A solidarity program on solid waste management was organized today here at Government Higher Secondary School Boys, with the goal of educating students about the importance of proper waste disposal.

Chief Education Officer Parkash Lal Thapa was the Chief Guest, while Executive Officer (EO) MC, Ravi Parihar and Assistant Professor, Botany, Government Degree College Dr. Sandeep Kotwal were Guests of Honor.

The highlights of the event were Expert lectures on importance of solid waste management for environmental conservation and interactive



sessions on best practices for waste reduction and segregation with emphasis on individual responsibility in maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

Under the guidance of Principal Rishi Kumar Manhas, the event was efficiently managed by

Uttam Singh, Lecturer in Physics. The initiative showcases the school's commitment towards environmental awareness and community service by encouraging students to adopt eco-friendly habits and contribute to a cleaner and greener Doda.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

LG chairs security...

tizzy, prompting them to fine tune the security arrangements of all vital projects underway in J&K.

An official told news agency that LG Sinha visited Gagangeer, Ganderbal to interact with officers and workers of Project Implementing Agency and to review the security measures on the project site.

"During his visit, the LG chaired a meeting of Officers of Police, Civil Administration, Project Implementing Agency and other security agencies and directed that the security grid should be further strengthened to ensure zero terror incidents in order to push rapid social and economic development," the spokesman said.

The LG underlined the need for securing the vital infrastructure projects across J&K UT and putting in place a multi-pronged and foolproof mechanism for coordination with project implementing agencies to prevent security breaches. "The LG stated the safety and security of workers and officers working on key infrastructure projects is the highest priority for the government," the official spokesman quoting LG as having said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised the need for stricter access control and regular patrolling around the project sites. He also directed the security forces and the police to conduct coordinated counter-terrorism operations pro-actively to wipe out terrorism in J&K UT, the LG told the meeting.

The LG wrote on X that "interacted with officers of J&K Police, Civil Admin, workers and officers of project implementing agency at Gagangeer. Also, chaired a security review meeting. I assure the people and dedicated workers, officers that the perpetrators of the recent terror attack will not be spared."

A police official privy to the meeting told that the LG Sinha passed directions to track down the attackers involved in Gagangeer attack. The attack was widely condemned by all political and religious parties. Yesterday, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called for increased level of alertness at all vital projects in J&K stating that he as seen Gagangeer attack after a long gap of three decades as one such attack was witnessed on IRCON long back. KNO

CM condoles family...

services education and training of Dr. Shah Nawaz's son, pledging to fulfill his father's dream of seeing him

become an officer.

"Whatever the costs, for training, coaching, or anything else, will be borne by us," Abdullah stated. "We will make him an officer at any cost," he added, reaffirming his government's commitment to the family's future. KNO

Violence must end; killings...

the table, not through guns or violence," he said.

Notably, seven people, including a doctor, were killed in a terror attack at a construction site in Gagangeer, Ganderbal district, late Sunday evening. The incident also left five others injured, who are currently undergoing surgery. KNO

Our research and creation...

Covid Pandemic and also helped the world through "Vaccine Maitri" is exemplary, he added.

Today the superior research capabilities of India in various sectors are now acknowledged and appreciated across the world. Scientists in both traditional systems and modern medicine are working together to meet the challenges of lifestyle diseases, mental and reproductive health, the Lt Governor said.

At the inaugural session, the Lt Governor shared the socio-economic reforms introduced in various sectors over the past few years in J&K UT.

In the last 5 years, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with his commitment to peace, job creation, entrepreneurship, sustainable growth and a relentless push for infrastructure development, changed J&K's destiny.

The Lt Governor also lauded the University of Jammu for leading the change in the education sector in the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor unveiled the bust of saviour of Jammu Kashmir, Brigadier Rajinder Singh, MVC (Posthumous). He also released the abstract book of the Conference.

Around 150 participants from across India and abroad participating in the 4-day Conference includes faculty, researchers, and students from leading universities and research institutes of India representing Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Northern states Punjab, Haryana, Jammu Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Bengal, Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and other states of India while 06 international del-

legates are representing Canada, Portugal, Japan, Belgium, United States and Germany.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor Jammu University; Prof. Bechan Lal, President Indian Society for Comparative Endocrinology, Prof. Suraj Unniappan, University of Saskatchewan, Canada; Prof. Seema Langer, HoD Zoology (Convener of the Conference); former Vice Chancellors, Scientists, Researchers, HoDs, faculty members and students were present.

LG inaugurates...

The Lt Governor also highlighted the vital steps taken under the guidance of PM Narendra Modi, in the last few years for the promotion of languages in J&K including Hindi, Kashmiri, Dogri, Urdu, Gojri, Pahari, Punjabi, Shina.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated the students from Kashmir Division who have excelled in Hindi Subject in their 10th standard examination.

He called upon the youth to take inspiration from the lives of Lalleshwari, Sheikh-ul-Alam, Sant Kabir Das, and other prominent personalities and work towards promotion of literature and languages.

Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Baldev Prakash, Managing Director and CEO J&K Bank; Harvinder Kour, Secretary, JKAACL; Kumar Manoj, Patron, Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti; Nasreen Ali "Nidhi," National President and other members of Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti, and prominent literary personalities were present. KNO

Good News Soon...

Jammu people need it the most as their business has been affected.

Besides, the cabinet minister informed that everything that has been mentioned in the manifesto of National Conference (NC) including 12 cylinders, increase in ration will be ensured.

"I can assure you that this has happened for the first time in the past several decades that Deputy CM post was given to Jammu and the people must be thankful for it," he said.

When asked about the reports of Jammu people feeling alienated, he said that he would work as a bridge, saying that there is a need to change the mindset.

"Since the Tourism department is with the Chief

Minister himself, I can assure you that I can add one crore tourists in the next three years. There is a need to give the tourists a respect as they help our people to earn livelihood and also making the future of our youth bright," he said. KNO

CM Omar directs...

Given the forecast of an early winter onset by the Meteorological Department, the Chief Minister instructed PDD officials to expedite their preparations. "We have indications of early snowfall this year, so our winter preparedness must reflect that possibility," he said, urging that seasonal pruning be completed within the next three to four weeks.

During the meeting, Principal Secretary PDD Rajesh H. Prasad provided a detailed presentation on the current power scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

The presentation covered a wide range of topics, including the existing power supply situation, energy requirements, and peak availability during the winter months. Key areas of discussion included strategies to mitigate the winter power deficit, banking agreements for up to 500 MW of additional energy, and allocations from the central government. The meeting also reviewed power purchase liabilities, loans raised, payments made, and ongoing efforts to improve revenue realization through enhanced billing systems, e-governance, and IT interventions.

A significant focus was placed on reducing Aggregate, Technical, and Commercial (AT&C) losses, with the Chief Minister urging that all necessary steps be taken to minimize these losses. The status of ongoing projects and system additions were also discussed in detail, with an emphasis on ensuring timely implementation before the onset of winter—(KNO)

CM releases Rs 1.70 crore...

On October 14, 2024, houses of 85 people were completely gutted into the devastating fire which left around 500 people homeless. After the incident, Omar Abdullah, after taking oath as CM, visited the area and assured financial help to the affected families.

Today the CM fulfilled his promise and released the money to help the people in distress.

Many NGOs are also working on the ground to provide relief to the fire victims and the rehabilitation process is underway. KNO

Winter preparedness: DC inspects Snow clearance control room Bandipora



JINNEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 22

In light of the approaching winter season, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzor Ahmad Qadri on Tuesday undertook onsite inspection of snow clearance Control room Bandipora and took stock of availability of men and machinery.

Nodal officer for Snow clearance, Tanveer Ahmad apprised that 27 Snow clearance machines are in ready mode to clear the roads.

The DC directed the concerned from different departments to ensure timely arrangements on the ground for the convenience of the general public across the district.

During the inspection of the snow clearance strategy for urban and rural roads, the DC urged officers to establish new standards for preparedness including increasing machinery deployment and fully mobilizing available resources.

The DC directed the concerned to conduct regular dry run of all

machines involved in snow clearance process and make sure Snow clearance control room is operational by 15th of November. He also issued guidelines to maintain prompt action and ensure zero response time in case of exigencies and impressed upon concerned to ensure functioning of Helpline numbers. The DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, Mohammad Maqbool Lone, Nodal officer for Snow clearance and other concerned.

DC Budgam inspects progress of work on New District Hospital, CCU & Multilevel Car Parking Complex

JINNEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, OCTOBER 22

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today visited various infrastructural project sites in Budgam to take firsthand appraisal of progress of works.

During the visit, the DC assessed the progress on 125-bedded New District Hospital and the 100-bedded Critical Care Unit (CCU) Budgam. He stressed on the importance of expediting the projects to ensure the timely availability of advanced healthcare facilities for the residents.

The projects aim to improve the district's healthcare infrastructure, reflecting the Government's commitment for providing quality medical services to the people of Budgam, the DC added. He



said that all stakeholders have worked in a focused manner to ensure that work on this prestigious project is carried out at a fast pace for its eventual timely dedication to the people of District Budgam.

The DC also inspected the Multi-Level Car Parking facility Budgam and emphasized the importance of efficient parking

solutions in managing urban traffic and enhancing accessibility. He also interacted with staff to discuss any challenges they face and potential improvements.

Besides, CPO, CMO, Executive Engineer R&B Budgam, AEEs and all concerned officers were also present during this site inspection.

Bazme Feham: Student Podcast inaugurated at Shopian



JINNEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 22

Bazme Feham, a Student Podcast Platform for communication and knowledge sharing among students, developed by the School Education Department, Shopian was inaugurated today at Shopian.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar inaugurated the Podcast and performed as a first guest on the inaugural show of the podcast where he interacted with the students of the district virtually.

challenges, share information and improve academic processes.

The key goal of such an initiative is to facilitate open dialogue between students and school administration, encouraging mutual understanding and cooperation to improve the learning environment. It shall also promote knowledge sharing and enhancing communication skills.

While interacting virtually with the students, the DC said that the event provides a platform for discussions on education, career guidance and societal issues that benefit students. He further added that the presence of educational experts and icons of various fields shall be invited to the Podcast to deliberate on student issues.

Bazme Feham is a novel initiative of the department, aimed at highlighting the talent of students, encouraging students to voice their ideas, and aspirations and to enhance the exchange of knowledge.

It is an academic society, a digital platform where students and administrators collaborate to discuss educational

Chief Education officer, Shopian, M Shabir and other concerned Officers and officials were present in the inaugural session.

Government committed to fulfil aspirations of people: Deputy CM



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 22

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today said that the government is dedicated to fulfil aspirations of the people by undertaking a holistic developmental programme.

The Deputy Chief Minister was addressing an introductory meeting of officers here today.

Minister for Agriculture Production and RDD, Javed Ahmed Dar was also present in the meeting.

The meeting was attended by all divisional

heads of different departments.

While calling for a synergized effort for speeding up development of Jammu and Kashmir, the Deputy Chief Minister said that we need to focus on proper implementation of various initiatives undertaken so that people get benefitted. He said that primary role of the government is to address the developmental concerns of the people and ensure their participatory role in various initiatives.

"The focus of administration should be people friendly so that the gaps,

if any, are abridged and citizen centric approach is adopted. The officers have to ensure proper implementation of various schemes and also obtaining feedback about the lacuna from the ground level as well", the Deputy Chief Minister emphasized. He said that the government has to rise to the occasion to meet expectations of the people. The Deputy Chief Minister was also briefed by the officers about the status of implementation of various flagship programmes of different departments.

Govt committed to catalyse youth initiatives: Dy CM

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 22

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, said that the Government is committed to catalyse various youth initiatives for creating a vibrant eco-system for honing technical skills of youth so that they can set-up their own income generating units and create jobs for others as well.



The Deputy Chief Minister was interacting with a deputation of Heritage Craft instructors who called on him the other day. They also highlighted various issues including opening of admission

process in ITI's for facilitating youth for start up and youth employment schemes.

He assured the deputations that all the issues highlighted by them would be redressed in a time bound manner. He

said that the government is committed to facilitate the youth for undertaking start up programmes and self-employment generating schemes, which would redress the menace of unemployment being faced by the youth.

Customer Outreach Program on SIDBI schemes held at Samba



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 22

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) Jammu, in association with Association of Small & Tiny Industries Samba, organised a customer outreach program here today. Director Industries and Commerce Jammu Dr. Arun Kumar Manhas was the Chief Guest, while General Manager, DIC Gurpreet Singh was the Guest of Honor and Assistant Director, MSME DFO Vinu Ji Koul, attended the event as the special guest.

In his address, Dr. Manhas gave detailed information about the industry sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

Deputy General Manager Jammu Anil Kumar Sharma gave a detailed presentation on various schemes of SIDBI Viz. Sthapan Yojana, Arjana Yojana, Express Loan Scheme, 4E Yojana, Green Finance Scheme etc.

Similarly, SIDBI Manager Rakesh Kumar Vign gave a detailed presentation on CGTMSE scheme, while the GM, DIC, Samba gave information about the Government schemes.

Likewise, Vinu Ji Koul provided information about the work being done by the Ministry of MSME in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dy CM, APD Minister attend last rites of Gagangir terror attack victim

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 22

On the direction of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary along with Minister for Agriculture Production and RDD, Javed Ahmed Dar, today attended the last rites of Shashi Bhushan Abrol, resident of Jammu who was killed in recent militant attack at Gagangir, Ganderbal, Kashmir. The Deputy Chief Minister and Javed Ahmed Dar also met with father and other family members of the deceased and assured them all support from the J&K Government. They said that all their grievances would be addressed on priority basis. They also assured the bereaved family that the issue of providing compensation to them will be taken up with the concerned authorities.



While speaking with the media persons, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the Government is committed to prevent

these type of incidents besides focusing on main-

taining peace and brotherhood in the region.

Ganderbal wins Best District Award at 5th National Water Awards

JINNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 22

In a proud moment for the region, Ganderbal has been honored as the Best District at the 5th National Water Awards, 2023.



The award, recognizing excellence in Water Conservation and Management, was presented by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, at a ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, today.

This prestigious recognition highlights Ganderbal's outstanding efforts in sustainable water resource management, setting a benchmark for environmental practices across the nation. The district's achievements are the result of dedicated initiatives by local authorities, communities, and stakeholders working together to protect and preserve water resources.

NOTICE

I, Payari Lal S/o Sh. Sadhu Ram R/o Dewal Kund Dossa Tehsil Bhagwah District Doda has applied for correction of spelling of my name as Payari Lal instead of Payare Lal in my Service Book and other record. Objection if any may be conveyed to the District Police Office Doda within 07 days from the publication of this notice.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Joint Director J&K Funds Organization Kashmir
(3rd Floor, Finance Complex Haft Chinar Srinagar)
Tel: 0194-2313548 Email: Jdfk.sgr@gmail.com

Mr. Anmol Roshan Bhat,
D/O: Roshan Lal Bhat
Assistant Compiler, R/O: Lane No.:20 Block No.: 106
Flat No.:08 Jagati Nagrota
Pin:181221

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

- Whereas, you have been appointed as Assistant Compiler under P.M Package in J&K Funds Organization Vide Director General J&K Organization's Order No.: 15-DGF of 2022 Dated: 28.01.2022;
- Whereas, you joined in the office of Joint Director Funds Organization Kashmir Division on 15.02.2022.
- Whereas, you were posted in District Fund Office Kulgam vide Order No.: JDFK/Adm/21 of 2022 Dated: 24.02.2022 and deemed to be relieved in the same order.
- Whereas, you were supposed to join the Fund Office Kulgam but you have not joined till date.
- Whereas, nothing has been heard from your side from the date of relieving from this office till date, and it has been presumed that you don't want to serve the Government of UT of J&K in Finance Department in the capacity of Assistant Compiler.
- Whereas, a show cause notice was served to you by this office Vide No.: JDFK/Adm/Sgr/2024 Dated: 21.09.2024 asking as to why your case shall not be submitted to the Government for termination of your appointment to which you did not respond.
- Now, therefore through the medium of this notice, you are hereby given another chance to explain within 07 days as to why not your case shall be submitted to the Government for termination of your appointment.

Dated: 21/10/2024
No: JDFK/Adm/Sgr/2024/3739-43.
DIP/J-6000/24

Sd/-
Joint Director, J&K Funds Organization,
Kashmir, Srinagar.

EDITORIAL

A striking blow to development and security!

The terror attack in Gagangeer, targeting workers on the Z-Morh Tunnel project, is far more than a tragic incident; it is a calculated strike against the very foundation of progress in Jammu and Kashmir. This brutal act of violence not only claims lives but seeks to undermine a vital infrastructure initiative that promises to transform the socio-economic landscape of the region. The Z-Morh Tunnel, spanning 6.4 kilometers, is not merely an engineering feat; it embodies India's strategic vision for Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Connecting the health resort of Sonamarg with Kangan in the Ganderbal district promises all-weather accessibility, reduces travel times between Srinagar and Kargil, and further enhances the linkage to Leh. The tunnel stands as a critical lifeline, particularly given the region's challenging weather conditions and difficult terrain, making it a beacon of hope for both civilian mobility and military logistics. The strategic significance of this project cannot be overstated. Situated near sensitive border areas, the Z-Morh Tunnel is crucial for the swift movement of military personnel and equipment, especially in times of crisis. Its completion will not only facilitate tourism and local commerce—promoting activities like whitewater rafting on the Thajiwas Glacier and ensuring easier access to the picturesque Sonamarg—but also bolster national security. Yet, the tragic loss of seven lives in this recent attack highlights the persistent threat that looms over development initiatives in the region. The incident raises urgent questions about the safety and security of workers engaged in these transformative projects. As Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha emphasizes, protecting the security of construction personnel is paramount. His call for proactive counter-terrorism operations is a necessary response to a dangerous reality that must not be ignored. The Gagangeer attack is a poignant reminder of the challenges faced by those who dare to build in a region often beset by conflict. It underscores the need for enhanced security measures around critical infrastructure, which are not just engineering endeavors but symbols of hope and resilience for local communities. The Z-Morh Tunnel and its counterparts—part of a larger initiative encompassing 31 tunnel projects worth approximately Rs 1.4 lakh crore—are meant to bridge gaps, foster economic growth, and bring stability to an area long plagued by turmoil. As authorities grapple with the implications of this attack, they must ensure that development does not come at the cost of safety. The stakes are high, and the government must act decisively to safeguard not only the workers but also the promise of progress that these projects represent. It is imperative that the local economy thrives as accessibility improves, allowing businesses to flourish and communities to prosper. The Gagangeer attack serves as a rallying cry for renewed commitment to both security and development in Jammu and Kashmir. As the region stands on the cusp of transformation, it is essential that we reaffirm our resolve to protect those who are building a better future, ensuring that their efforts are not thwarted by fear or violence. The Z-Morh Tunnel is more than just a construction project; it is a testament to the indomitable spirit of a region that deserves peace, prosperity, and progress.

The Fear of Loss and the Quest for Inner Peace

RAVI VALLURI

Humans are intrinsically fearful of loss. Misplacement can assume several dimensions. Say mislaying of property, wealth, recognition, position, power, pelf, health and most importantly, life. John's (name changed) steely voice suddenly trembled and quivered as he answered the pretentious cell phone. Rachel (name changed), his daughter had met with a grievous car crash and was wheeled into the ICU of an estimable hospital. Death is the action or fact of dying or being killed, the end of life of a person or an organism.

Several years ago, a Japanese warrior was captured by his adversaries and was confined to a dungeon. That fateful night he tossed and turned restlessly and was unable to sleep, fearing the following day when

he would be interrogated, tortured and eventually executed. He was staring death in its face. Then suddenly he remembered the priceless words of his Zen Master: "Tomorrow is not real. It is an illusion. The only reality is now." Heeding these esoteric words, the warrior overcame the exacting condition he was encountering and soon his mind became tranquil and he fell asleep. Suffering and fear arise in our minds when humans confront ailment or impending death. No one wishes to pass from being to non-being.

The credo of the human mind is the desire to remain eternally immortal. Millions of cells in the human body perish and are regenerated. But we are not mindful or wakeful of this reality. Do humans compose dirges or elegies like Catullus or Propertius for the dead cells? Or do we carouse and indulge



in delirium on the birth of new cells and recite 'Happy Birthday' songs? "No one wants to die. Even the people who want to go to heaven do not want to die to get there! And yet death is the destination we all share. No one has ever escaped it." Be it Rachel or the Japanese warrior no one has ever attained per-

petuity or everlastingness; however bare-knuckled a person may be, he remains a glass jaw to the reality.

Yet youngsters today cannonaded by gizmos and technology become weary and bored of life at the young ages of twenty, thirty and hotfoot to snuff out their lives. Life is indeed holy and hal-

lowed, too valuable and will remain a mystery that should not be recklessly given up. Yet there is no covenant or magic potion which guarantees deathlessness. Identifying and unravelling this mystery has confronted the minds of spiritualists, religious congregations and those of scientists and technocrats alike. A Zen Master was unwell and desired to cast away his body. His pupils implored him that he ought to live longer and disseminate the profound knowledge. It so happened that one disciple remarked, "Whether it is life or death, let it be." The Master was ecstatic with the response and passed away. "Let it be" is much more than a mere aphorism, it is a state of mind.

Our shastras impress that the human mind is influenced by place, time, food, past impressions and associations and the actions of individu-

als. The footprints bear both efficacious and anti-pathetic impacts on the human mind. Humans are enslaved by the above-mentioned factors and habits and, as a result, involuntarily superintendents our perceptions, attitudes and behaviour.

And over a period if we are not aware of these negative emotions they compound into anxiety, anger, aggression, covetousness, low self-esteem, and fear. Knowledge about the impermanence of life and variegated dimensions can be gained only through regular practice of pranayama, Sudarshan Kriya, meditation, or mindful observation of breath. This is the secret and the only truth.

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

Unlocking the full potential of GatiShakti

UTTAM GUPTA

According to the Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Amardeep Singh Bhatia, as many as 208 big-ticket infrastructure projects including roads (101), railways (73), urban development (12) and oil and gas (4) worth Rs 1539,000 crore have been recommended for approval under the PM GatiShakti initiative so far. These projects have been recommended by an inter-ministerial group known as the Network Planning Group (NPG) constituted under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP). Launched in October 2021, the PM Gati Shakti NMP is a transformative Rs 100 lakh crore initiative aimed at revolutionising the infrastructure in India over the next five years.

Its vision is to create a world-class integrated infrastructure that improves the ease of living, boosts economic growth and makes Indian businesses more competitive. It does so by expediting project completion, reducing timelines, enhancing multimodal connectivity, boosting efficiency across sectors, benefiting logistics (a jargon for handling, storage and transportation) creating jobs and fostering innovation. How does it work? The PM GatiShakti NMP has been developed as a Digital Master Planning tool. It works on a dynamic Geographic Information System (GIS) platform

wherein data on specific action plans of all the 16 Ministries/Departments dealing with infrastructure sectors as well as of the States have been incorporated within a comprehensive database.

The NMP portal has over 1,600 layers of geospatial data, showing all physical and social infrastructure of an area viz land, ports, forests, and highways and so on. The NMP revolves around seven primary sectors that are fundamental to economic growth and ensuring seamless connectivity. These sectors are roads, railways, ports, airports, mass transport, waterways and logistics infrastructure.

These are further supported and complemented by sectors like energy (all fuels such as petrol, diesel, ATF, natural gas and power etc) transmission, IT communication, bulk water and sewerage, and social infrastructure. The inter-ministerial NPG has representations from the connectivity infrastructure ministries/departments, involving their heads of network planning division to ensure unified planning and integration of the proposals.

The NPG meets every fortnight and appraises infra projects to ensure multi-modality (a term used to connote several different modes of transportation to get cargo from the factory/port/warehouse to a client's front door), synchronisation of efforts, and comprehensive development in and around the project location. All logistics and connec-

tivity infrastructure projects worth over Rs 500 crore are routed through the NPG. The NPG's approval is required even before making a DPR (Detailed Project Report) at the planning stage. Thereafter, the project follows the normal procedure of approval by the Public Investment Board (PIB) or Department of Expenditure under the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the Cabinet.

Put simply, NMP provides on a centralised portal, a 360-degree view of all the existing projects/initiatives, those under implementation as well as projects under planning stage across all ministries and departments and offers visibility into all critical data relevant to efficient planning and execution. It helps in the identification of critical gaps in infrastructure, helping to select the most efficient routes for transportation, reducing costs, and minimising delays.

As many as 156 gaps in infrastructure to ports and for movement of bulk commodities like coal, cement, fertilisers and food grains, have been identified for intervention under the PM GatiShakti initiative.

The plan also helps in prioritising projects more effectively by leveraging cross-sector interactions, ensuring that the ministries work in harmony to align the projects and allocate resources optimally - based on national priorities - avoiding duplication and redundancies.

The upfront approval by

the NPG even before the ministry prepares the DPR can help it in making the RIGHT choices, prevent delays and avoid colossal wastage of resources that were germane to the earlier dispensations when the ministries and departments were working in silos - in an uncoordinated manner - unaware of the happenings and work in progress in other departments and bereft of the crucial data on KEY parameters. The PM GatiShakti is a robust system working on real time basis in a dynamic framework to guide project planning and execution (monitoring through satellite imagery ensures that the ministries can track progress and make necessary adjustments to keep projects on schedule).

The phenomenal increase in the capacity in all crucial areas such as ports, airports, railways, highways, roads and so on is a testament to the success of efforts made under PM GatiShakti.

But, we have a long way to go

The target of Rs 100 lakh crore investment for building the infrastructure over five years was set by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her maiden Budget for 2019-20 (out of this, 39 per cent or Rs 3900,000 crore was to come from the Centre and an equal amount from States and the balance Rs 2200,000 crore from the private sector).

Against this, the investment covered under PM GatiShakti is Rs 1539,000 crore which is just about 15

percent. Even when we take this as a proportion of the investment commitment by the Centre (presumably all projects under PM GatiShakti are centrally sponsored), this works out to 40 per cent. As for the States, they are far behind in meeting their overall investment target of Rs 3900,000 crore.

And, very few of them such as Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat have boarded the PM GatiShakti platform.

The platform by ensuring visibility, identification of bottlenecks and better coordination can help expedite approvals but it can't be a substitute. The approvals have to be given by the concerned authorities at the central and State levels. Here, projects face long delays especially when it comes to getting environmental and land clearances.

Local protests exacerbate the delays. 'Working in silos' syndrome doesn't go away just because Modi has given a platform to the bureaucrats in various Ministries to sit together and thrash out issues.

Sticking to their stance, especially when it comes to staking their claim to resources (such conflicts are seen more in major projects like roads and railways) often leads to delays. Further, a lack of coordination with the states, as seen in the Sagarmala and Bharatmala projects, has led to slower progress.

Outdated or incomplete data is a major bottleneck. For instance, while land records

are digitised in 13 states, the rest lag.

This hampers the implementation of projects in states where land records are not digitised as well as roads/highways projects, power transmission lines, and oil and gas pipelines passing through these states.

Even as the PM GatiShakti platform allows for real-time tracking, the authorities don't always make project updates regular, which delays completion. This is particularly true of rural road projects in many districts leading to slow progress.

The investment by the private sector is nowhere near the target of Rs 2200,000 crore set by Sitharaman. In the roads/highways sector, even as the government has asked private players to come under public-private partnerships (PPPs) mode, the latter's response isn't encouraging leaving it to the former to take on the load.

The bottlenecks lead to continuing project delays and cost overruns which cause high tariff/service charges across all sectors highways, railways, ports, airports, power transmission, fuel transportation etc.

These come in the way of making Indian businesses more competitive and ease of living for the common man. All Stakeholders particularly the States should work to surmount the bottlenecks to enable PM GatiShakti to deliver its full potential.

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

How India's workforce can benefit from the world's growing demand

ADITI BANERJEE

India's labour force is one of its greatest assets, with millions of skilled workers spread across various industries, including healthcare, construction, information technology and engineering. However, despite this abundance of talent, many of these workers struggle to find suitable employment within the country. The global labour market, on the other hand, is increasingly facing shortages in these same sectors. Bridging this gap has been a significant challenge.

Global Skill Shortage and Demand for Indian Talent over the past decade, countries across Europe, the Middle East, and parts of Asia have been facing critical shortages in skilled labour.

Factors like ageing populations, changing work preferences, and evolving technological needs have

driven these regions to seek out talent from countries like India. Healthcare, construction, IT, and logistics are some of the industries experiencing the most pressing shortages.

We need to recognise this demand early on and respond by connecting skilled Indian professionals with global employers.

This will help in aligning the skill sets of Indian workers with international standards and job requirements, offering thousands secure employment overseas.

A Systematic Approach to Global Mobilisation. The workforce mobilization model should ensure that the process is smooth and transparent for both the workers and the employers. The organisation focuses on several key stages: Talent and Skill Gaps: We should conduct thorough assessments of candidates, ensuring they meet international

job requirements. By collaborating with top training institutes, they also provide upskilling opportunities to candidates who need it. Job Matching: With established relationships with employers in countries such as Germany, Canada, and the UAE, organisations can ensure that candidates are placed in roles that match their qualifications and aspirations.

Navigating Complexities: Overseas job placement is fraught with regulatory hurdles, but offering complete support with visas, documentation, and legal compliance, ensures candidates can focus on building their careers without administrative delays. Supporting Worker Welfare: The organisation provides post-placement assistance, offering support with relocation and helping candidates adjust to new cultural environ-

ments. This ensures long-term success for workers abroad. Shaping the Industry's Future Beyond individual placements, the organisation's work is in shaping the broader landscape of international labour migration. There has to be a system for fair recruitment practices and the protection of workers' rights. This is critical in an industry that is

often plagued by stories of worker exploitation and unethical recruitment agencies. A transparent process ensures that workers are fully informed of the terms of their contracts before they travel abroad. This approach not only safeguards the interests of Indian workers but also builds trust with global employers.



The global demand for

skilled labour is at an all-time high, and India has the talent to meet this need. Many organisations have pitched in to fill this gap. 'Magic Billion' creates dignified, well-paying employment opportunities for Indian workers overseas. Since starting in 2018, it has facilitated over 4,000 Indian workers being placed in global roles.

It is just not helping

individuals find jobs; we're building sustainable careers that elevate both the worker and their families.

Women Empowerment: A particularly noteworthy aspect of such an organisation's work is its focus on women and young professionals. The global job market offers unique opportunities for these groups, particularly in industries like healthcare and hospitality. Targeted programs need to aim at empowering women to enter these fields and secure high-paying jobs abroad.

This is especially significant in a country like India, where barriers to women's employment are still prevalent in many sectors. The organisation's efforts to provide training and certification for nursing professionals, for example, have opened up opportunities for hundreds of women to work in countries where

there is a growing demand for healthcare workers. This not only benefits the individual but also creates ripple effects for their families and communities.

Economic Benefits: India's skilled labour force is not only contributing to the economies of the countries where they work but also bringing significant benefits to India itself. Remittances sent home by overseas workers are a major source of foreign exchange and play a crucial role in the economic development. By placing workers in global jobs, we can help alleviate some of the domestic unemployment pressures. This is especially important for sectors like construction where there is a surplus of skilled labour in India.

(The writer is CEO & Co-Founder of Magic Billion; views are personal)

Delhi air pollution: City doctors report 30pc rise in asthma, COPD cases

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 22

Even as air quality in the national capital fell to the 'very poor' category, city doctors on Tuesday reported a 30 per cent surge in respiratory diseases like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

A thick layer of smog enveloped Delhi on Tuesday morning as the city's air quality deteriorated to the 'very poor' category. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 27 monitoring stations in the national capital fell in the red zone, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 317 recorded around 9:00 a.m.

The health experts blamed changing weather and pollution levels for the rise in respiratory disease. Children, pregnant women, and the elderly are at the highest risk.

Dr. Vikas Maurya,



Senior Director and HOD Pulmonology, Fortis Hospital told IANS that as winter is approaching and pollution is increasing with lower AQI, there has been an increase in cases of acute bronchitis and asthma attack.

"There has been a 30-40 per cent rise in these respiratory diseases. Pollutants with PM 2.5 and PM 10 along with dust particles and vehicular emissions in increased concentra-

tion are causing irritation and inflammation to the airways when inhaled," Maurya said.

Children, the elderly, those with weak immunity, and those with pre-existing lung diseases like asthma, COPD, and cardiac issues are more at risk.

These people are more likely to present with symptoms like excessive cough, mucus production, sneezing, chest pain, and

breathing problems.

"With the approaching winter season, stubble burning, vehicular exhaust, the pollutants in the air have crossed levels suitable for human health. These toxic gases irritate the lungs, especially of the elderly and asthmatic and COPD patients," Bobby Bhalotra, Prof and senior consultant, Department of Chest Medicine, SGRH told IANS.

The experts advised people to take precautions, such as wearing masks, and using air purifiers indoors if they are immobile in bed and are in the high-risk category. They also called for avoiding outdoor activities when air quality is poor.

Dr Vikas Mittal, Pulmonologist, Department of Respiratory Medicine, C K Birla Hospital, told IANS that the asthma cases are also being driven by the seasonal transition and an

increase in pollen counts.

Allergic rhinitis is also seeing an uptick due to similar triggers, he said.

"The current seasonal transition has resulted in fluctuating temperatures, which, alongside high pollen levels, are exacerbating asthma and other respiratory diseases. The conditions are complicating air quality, making it harder for those with pre-existing respiratory conditions to breathe easily," Mittal said. The hospital is witnessing 20-30 per cent cases of asthma and other respiratory diseases.

The experts called on people with lung diseases to take their preventive medication regularly and keep indoor plants air purifiers to keep indoors clean.

Bhalotra recommended immediate medical care in case of breathing trouble indicated by fast pulse rate and inability to complete sentences.

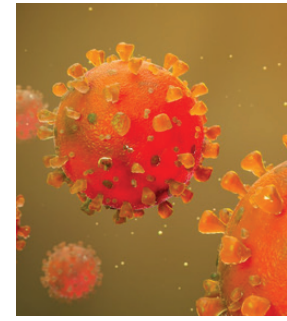
How Covid virus defeats body's immune response

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 22

Japanese researchers have discovered that SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for Covid-19, carries an enzyme that can act against a cell's innate defence mechanism against viruses.

This can answer why Covid-19 is more infectious than the previous SARS and MERS-causing viruses, said the researchers from Kobe University. The team focussed their study on the role of a molecular tag called "ISG15" in Covid virus that prevents nucleocapsid proteins from attaching to each other -- a key process to enable viruses to assemble.

In addition, the "enzyme can remove the tags from its nucleocapsid, recovering its ability to assemble new viruses and thus overcoming the innate immune response," explained virologist Shoji



Ikuo from the varsity, in a paper in the Journal of Virology.

While SARS and MERS viruses also carry an enzyme that can remove the ISG15 tag, Shoji's team found that their versions are less efficient.

"The results suggest that the novel coronavirus is simply better at evading this aspect of the innate immune system's defense mechanism, which explains why it is so infectious," Shoji said.

The innate immune system is the first line of defense against pathogens which limits viral entry, replication, and assem-

bly. It also detects and removes infected cells.

Unlike SARS and MERS viruses, Covid rapidly spread to almost all continents, including the sparsely inhabited Antarctica.

The Covid virus continues to mutate and infect with newer variants. However, the severity has decreased with mass vaccinations and herd immunity.

The new findings may pave the way to the development of more effective drugs against Covid-19 and possibly similar future diseases.

"We may be able to develop new antiviral drugs if we can inhibit the function of the viral enzyme that removes the ISG15 tag. Future therapeutic strategies may also include antiviral agents that directly target the nucleocapsid protein or a combination of these two approaches," the researchers said.

AI-powered models match ophthalmologists in diagnosing eye infections: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 22

Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered models are at par with eye care specialists in diagnosing infectious keratitis (IK) -- a leading cause of corneal blindness worldwide, finds a study on Tuesday.

The study further established the potential of AI and deep learning models in boosting healthcare.

Infectious keratitis, commonly known as corneal infection, resulted in about 5 million cases of blindness worldwide and accounted for about 2 million cases of monocular blindness annually. It has particularly affected people in low- and middle-income countries.

Researchers from the University of Birmingham



in the UK conducted a meta-analysis of 35 studies that utilised Deep Learning (DL) models to diagnose infectious keratitis.

Their findings, published in eClinicalMedicine, showed that AI models matched the diagnostic accuracy of ophthalmologists' 82.2 per cent sensitivity and 89.6 per cent specificity,

the AI models exhibited a

sensitivity of 89.2 per cent and specificity of 93.2 per cent.

"Our study shows that AI has the potential to provide fast, reliable diagnoses, which could revolutionise how we manage corneal infections globally," Dr. Darren Ting, Consultant Ophthalmologist at the University of Birmingham.

Ting noted that the AI-powered models may be of

significant benefit in areas "where access to specialist eye care is limited and can help to reduce the burden of preventable blindness worldwide".

The AI models also proved effective at differentiating between healthy eyes, infected corneas, and the various underlying causes of IK, such as bacterial or fungal infections.

However, the researchers called for interpreting the results with caution due to the image-based analysis that did not account for potential correlation within individuals.

They emphasised the need for more diverse data and further external validation to increase the reliability of these models for clinical use.

94pc Indian doctors demand specialised upskilling opportunities: Report

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 22

In an era of rapid medical advancements and evolving healthcare challenges, a new report on Tuesday showed that 94 per cent of doctors in India are demanding specialised upskilling opportunities.

The report reveals a pressing need for specialised training programmes that go beyond traditional Continuing Medical Education (CME). This includes advanced courses, and other academic opportunities.

"Our survey reveals a critical inflection point in medical education in India. With 93.58 per cent of doctors expressing a need for specialised upskilling beyond traditional CME, we're wit-



nessing a paradigm shift in how medical professionals approach lifelong learning. This overwhelming demand signals not just a gap, but an opportunity to revolutionise medical education," said Balu Ramachandran, Co-founder and CEO of OC Academy.

The report is based on responses gathered from 400 medical professionals across various specialties and experience levels in the country. It unravels several key trends that diverge from conventional medical education approaches.

The report showed a significant majority of doctors (61.35 per cent) favoured a hybrid mode of learning, combining online and offline components. When considering enrollment in specialised upskilling programmes, nearly a quarter of respondents (23.84 per cent) prioritised the availability of practical hands-on experience or simulations, emphasising the importance of experiential learning in medical education.

It also revealed a strong inclination towards self-driven learning, with over half of the respondents (55.09 per cent) actively searching for resources online, indicating a shift towards self-directed, continuous learning among medical professionals.

AI TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT MARK IN HEALTHCARE & EDUCATION IN INDIA: EXPERTS

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 22

As the country embarks on its journey to use artificial intelligence (AI) for empowering millions of people while democratising it, experts on Tuesday said that the technology has great potential and will make a significant mark in the sectors of healthcare and education.

From detecting diseases to analysing test results to manufacturing drugs, AI is making great strides in the healthcare sector. In the education sector, AI is enabling digital literacy, critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity.

"Healthcare and education are two sectors where you will see AI being able to do things that were not possible earlier,"



said Dr. Rohini Srivathsa, Chief Technology Officer, Microsoft India and South

Asia, at the NDTV World Summit 2024.

She also shared an

example of a doctor having an AI Assistant who could track the latest developments in disease sectors globally.

In addition, Srivathsa said that "AI will make India celebrate diversity in languages". She added that using AI people can learn languages other than English.

Saurabh Kumar Sahu, Managing Director and Lead - India Business Accenture (IBA) said that the pace of AI is growing rapidly in the country.

"AI is growing faster than what it can be put to use. We don't have to worry about the pace of AI at the moment," Sahu said.

"AI for me means Atmanirbhar India," he said, stressing using AI for India.

Meanwhile, Srivathsa

also informed how Shiksha Co-pilot, Microsoft's generative AI assistant is helping teachers in Karnataka.

Launched last week, the Shiksha Copilot aims to improve learning outcomes and empower teachers to create comprehensive and personalised teaching resources.

"The software allows teachers in a government school to create a lesson plan for their students. In government schools, typically, you have children of different ages in the same classroom and they may have different skill levels, Srivathsa said.

"This allows teachers in Kannada to prepare a lesson plan for their students that is tailored to that particular student's interest. That was impossible earlier," she added.

Menopause not an illness: Cosmetic Gynecologist

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, OCT 22

Menopause, a natural stage in a woman's life that signals the end of her ability to have children, is a normal part of life and not an illness that needs treatment unless symptoms greatly impact your daily life, said Dr. Shaik Nilofer Saleem, Diploma Cosmetic Gynecology (Germany) Consultant Obstetrician & Laparoscopic Surgeon at Ankura Hospital for Women and Children.

In a release here on Tuesday, Dr Saleem said that by learning more and living healthily, the woman can handle symptoms well and confidently face this new stage.

With the right approaches, women can go through menopause strongly,

enjoying a healthy and happy life afterward, she said.

The menstrual period ends in a woman, usually between the ages of 45 and 55 and this change happens because the ovaries slowly stop making the hormones estrogen and progesterone, which are important for the menstrual cycle, the consultant said as these hormone levels drop, periods become irregular and eventually stop.

Common menopause symptoms include hot flashes, mood changes, trouble sleeping, vaginal dryness, and lower bone density. Each woman's experience with menopause is different; some may have few symptoms, while others may find it more difficult, the Gynecologist said.

Women should prioritize their health during this transitional phase by scheduling regular healthcare appointments with the Gynaecologist. These consultations, especially on lifestyle changes, hormone therapy options, monitoring bone health, can help them navigate the transition and manage symptoms, thereby making the menopause transition smoother, she stated.

A proactive approach enables women to better navigate the changes associated with menopause, he said.

Understanding menopause can help lessen worries and prepare women for this natural stage of life, the Doctors said.

There's also a notion

Apollo Hosp achieves 500 Robotic Cardiac procedures milestone

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, OCT 22

Apollo Hospitals Chennai on Tuesday announced it has reached a significant achievement in the field of cardiac care with the successful completion of 500 robotic cardiac surgeries.

This landmark reinforces Apollo Hospitals' position as a

pioneer in robotic-assisted cardiac surgery, demonstrating its commitment to delivering advanced, patient-centric care.

The milestone highlights the hospital's expertise in minimally invasive surgery, significantly enhancing the recovery process for patients with heart conditions, hospital Founder Chairman Dr. Prathap C Reddy told reporters here.

Robotic-assisted cardiac surgery has revolutionized heart care by allowing precise operations without the need for a sternotomy, or opening of the chest. This cutting-edge technology uses tiny robotic arms and a high-definition 3D camera to perform complex procedures through small incisions, offering numerous benefits over traditional open-heart

surgery. The team, led by Dr. M.M. Yusuf, has successfully performed a comprehensive range of procedures including Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery (CABG), heart valve repair/replacement, and complex cardiac repairs.

Short-term benefits are patient experiencing less pain, minimal blood loss, and

reduced risk of infection due to the absence of a sternotomy. Many patients can start walking the day after surgery and are discharged within 3 to 4 days.

They typically return to normal activities is within 2 to 3 weeks, compared to 3 to 6 months required for traditional open-heart surgery recovery. Long-term benefit is which the use of internal mammary arter-

ies instead of leg veins during coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) procedures provides superior long-term outcomes, significantly reducing the risk of future blockages.

Dr. Prathap Reddy said "our 500 robotic cardiac surgeries are a milestone not only for our institution but also for cardiac care in India. By pioneering such advanced procedures, we

aim to deliver care that is not only effective but also minimally invasive, ensuring the best outcomes for our patients".

Dr. M.M. Yusuf, Consultant Robotic and Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery said reaching 500 robotic cardiac procedures is a testament to the evolving capabilities of modern medical technology and the trust our patients have placed in us.

India gearing up for 2nd white revolution, says HM Shah at NDDB diamond jubilee celebrations

AGENCIES

ANAND, OCT 22

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said India is gearing up for a second white revolution and aims to connect all the eight crore milk-producing farmers to the cooperative infrastructure in the near future.

Addressing the diamond jubilee celebrations of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in Gujarat's Anand, HM Shah said at present only 1.5 crore of the milk-producing farmers are connected with the cooperatives while the majority of them are still facing exploitation.

Also being celebrated is the birth anniversary of Amul's founder, Tribhu-



vandas Patel.

As the guest of honour, Union Minister Amit Shah addressed the audience, reflecting on NDDB's pivotal role in transforming India into one of the largest milk producers in the world.

He stated, "I am privileged to be the first cooperative minister of

the country. NDDB is a great institute not just in India but also around the world.

This institute has achieved results because it works in a professional manner. So many women are associated with Amul and benefit from this employment model.

Their idea is to distrib-

ute profits among people -- this organisation doesn't have an owner, and that's its best part."

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghvi, and Minister Jagdish Vishwakarma, along with several other state ministers and dignitaries, joined Amit Shah at the

celebration.

HM Shah highlighted NDDB's evolution over the years in his remarks, noting, "I once advised that we should not be limited to milk; expand yourselves. I am happy to share that NDDB has now expanded into vegetable and fruit processing. This expansion allows farmers to reap significant benefits, with processed products reaching consumers across the globe."

The Home Minister also commended the GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) initiative launched by the Government of India, which aims to manage and convert organic waste, mainly from cattle, into valuable products such as biogas and organic

manure.

He emphasized its role in promoting environmental sustainability and improving rural livelihoods, stating, "Gobar se dhan khada hua. Women in villages are benefiting from this scheme. These women may not understand carbon credits, but they are all now part of our sustainable future." HM Shah also unveiled the plans of the BJP government to establish two lakh cooperatives in the country in the next five years.

He said the creation of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is rooted in the conviction that our nation's socio-economic progress lies largely in the development of rural India.

Maha Assembly polls: BJP fields sitting MLAs despite Shinde faction's opposition in Thane

AGENCIES

THANE, OCT 22

The BJP has announced nominees in Maharashtra's Thane by turning a blind eye to the strong opposition to a few names from the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena. Thane is CM Shinde's home district which has 18 Assembly constituencies.

BJP's move to nominate Sulabha Gaikwad, wife of party legislator Ganpat Gaikwad, who is currently in jail from Kalyan East, Sanjay Kelkar from Thane, Ganesh Naik from Airoli and Kisan Kathore from Murbad was to send a strong signal to the Shinde faction not to take it for granted and also to reiterate that the party will continue its efforts for its consolidation in Thane district. BJP has also dropped

sufficient hints that CM Shinde, his son Shrikant Shinde, who is party MP from Kalyan Dombivali, and party supporters may have single-handed influence in Thane's administrative circle, the party also enjoys its share in increasing MahaYuti's presence in the district. Barring the lone exception of sitting legislator Kumar Ailani from Ulhasnagar, the BJP has renominated seven sitting legislators from Thane district in its first list.

BJP is also actively considering fielding the Independent legislator Geeta Jain from Mira Bhayander by inducting her into the party fold. Jain, who defeated the BJP nominee Narendra Mehata, has supported the MahaYuti government due to her proximity to the Chief Minister.

India's growth in renewable energy is quite phenomenal: Shishir Priyadarshi

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCT 22

Shishir Priyadarshi, President of Chintan Research Foundation on Tuesday said that India's growth in renewable energy is quite phenomenal.

Talking to IANS, Shishir Priyadarshi said, "India had phenomenal growth as far as renewable energy is concerned. I will give you just two statistics. In 2013, our total power generation was about 220 to 230 gigawatts (GW), out of which renewable energy was about 30 GW."

"That means the share of renewables in that was about 12.5 per cent. After ten years in 2023, our total installed capacity has increased exponentially and so has the share of renewables," he added.

Appreciating India's contribution to the renewable energy share, Shishir



Priyadarshi stated, "I think India has done a phenomenal job in increasing the share of renewable energy in its total installed capacity. India needs to be patted on the back because despite the challenges it has major developmental aspirations and wants to become a developed country by 2047. This will entail a huge amount of additional power but yet we are steadfast in our commitment to greening energy."

He further asserted that the progress in generating renewable energy was due to private companies and the Indian government.

"See, the progress you

are seeing today is all because of the private conglomerates like the Adani Group. They are making a huge contribution to the progress of renewable energy.

"There is a place in Khavda where a solar energy and wind energy park is being set up which is five times the total area of Paris.

"The Indian government is also contributing in the growth of renewable energy as they have come out with great policies and enabled it as well," he said. India saw the highest year-on-year growth in renewable energy additions of 9.83 per cent in 2022.

India has set a target to reduce the carbon intensity of the nation's economy by less than 45 per cent by the end of the decade, achieve 50 per cent cumulative electric

Kejriwal came with dreams of change but has become a 'maafi expert': Ravi Shankar Prasad

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCT 22

Senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad, while commenting on the Supreme Court's rejection of Arvind Kejriwal's petition in a defamation case, said that the former Delhi Chief Minister, who once promised to transform the country, has now become an expert on seeking apology (maafi expert).

Prasad pointed out that Kejriwal has strayed far from the ideals he championed during the Anna Hazare movement.

Speaking to media persons at the BJP's national headquarters here on Tuesday, Prasad referred to the Supreme Court's recent decision, which rejected Kejriwal's plea to stay a defamation case related to comments he made about Prime Minis-



ter Narendra Modi's educational qualifications.

The defamation case was initiated by Gujarat University, following Kejriwal's public remarks questioning the PM's degree, which led to an RTI being filed. The Sessions Court and the Gujarat High Court have already dismissed Kejriwal's petition, and now, the Supreme Court has upheld those decisions.

Prasad claimed that Kejriwal had even hinted

during the court proceedings that he might apologise for his remarks, but the Supreme Court noted that such an apology should have been made earlier. Now, with his petition withdrawn, the criminal defamation case against him will proceed in Gujarat.

Highlighting Kejriwal's pattern of making accusations and later apologies, Prasad listed several instances where the Delhi CM issued apologies,

including to late Arun Jaitley, to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, to Punjab leader Vikram Majithia, to Kapil Sibal and others.

Prasad argued that while criticism is a fundamental right in politics, making false and defamatory allegations is not.

"The true face of Arvind Kejriwal, who lectures the world on honesty and anti-corruption, has been revealed," Prasad remarked, adding, "Kejriwal has apologised on 10 separate occasions for various remarks."

He also drew a parallel between Kejriwal and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, suggesting that both have displayed similar carelessness in their public conduct.

Prasad also addressed questions on the BJP's stance on population control and the challenges in

Wayanad where Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is contesting. He dismissed concerns about Priyanka's chances of electoral success, saying the BJP and its leaders do not fear competition.

He also touched upon India-China relations, noting that sensitive diplomatic matters should be handled by experienced officials and questioned the understanding of diplomacy among some opposition leaders like Rahul Gandhi and Kejriwal.

Responding to Samajwadi Party leader Ram Gopal Yadav's controversial remarks about the Chief Justice of India, Prasad reaffirmed the importance of respecting the judiciary, which he described as vital to the country's democracy and constitutional traditions.

Indian businesswomen discuss role of women workforce in fostering better future

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCT 22

A panel discussion of the country's leading businesswomen at the NDTV World Summit 2024 on Tuesday, highlighted the vital role of women workforce in fostering a better future, creating a new paradigm of leadership and also breaking new benchmarks on the global stage.

The panel included leading Indian businesswomen such as Kami Swaminath, President of FedEx, Preeti Bajaj, CEO and MD of Luminous Power Technologies, and Padmaja Ruparel, Co-Founder of the Indian Angel Network.

FedEx President Kami Swaminath, addressed the

traditionally male-dominated business sectors said that glass ceilings are being broken in every sphere.

"There is still a lot more work to be done. At FedEx, as a global corporation operating across multiple international markets, we recognise the power of building a global culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Currently, 36 per cent of our board is made up of women, and we have 26 per cent women in management globally. Our approach is quite structured, and we recently added more focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion, rededicating ourselves to inclusive hiring, promotions, and supporting career paths,"

she remarked. Swaminath emphasised the challenge of increasing women's representation in logistics and supply chain sectors and said, "A key area of focus is middle management, where there is often a drop-off in



women's participation due to societal expectations around childcare, elder care, and other responsibilities."

"FedEx is a people-centric culture, and much of our effort is aimed at building an environment where

DEI thrives. Our senior team members are specifically working on being more inclusive. There is a lot more to be done, and it is an ongoing journey for us—especially in bringing more women into senior management and increas-

ing their representation," she said.

access to opportunities, which is critical. Second is ambition—women must aspire to reach senior-level roles and fuel their own desire to pioneer such positions.

Finally, there is attainment, which involves creating supportive environments and policies that can address these challenges. My call to action for women in the energy sector is that this is an evolutionary time, and we are part of the Viksit Bharat 2047 initiative."

Padmaja Ruparel, Co-Founder of the Indian Angel Network, shared her experience as an early-stage investor, saying, "When I started, there were no women in this

field, and I went through many evolutions myself. I can't be an investor if there are no entrepreneurs. In 2022, only 14.7 per cent of funding went to women, which is not encouraging. The number of women investors is also very low, and growth capital is much less for women partners. We need to create a 'BlackRock of India' led by women."

According to a recent report, only 38 of India's 100 leading publicly listed corporations have more than 20 per cent women employees in their workforce, underscoring the need for faster inclusion to achieve gender equality in business and other sectors.

2023 Maha glass factory fire: FIR ordered against Resolution Professional Girish Juneja

AGENCIES

NASHIK (MAHARASHTRA), OCT 22

A Nashik Court has ordered the MIDC Sinar Police Station to lodge a first information report (FIR) against a Resolution Professional (RP) of a sick company where a gas leakage followed by a major fire was reported on December 29, 2023.

Joint Judicial Magistrate First Class (Jt. JMFC) K.S. Khandre of Sinar Court said in his order of October 19 that the Hindustan National Gas & Industries Limited (HNGIL)'s RP, Girish Siriram Juneja was answerable not only to the

company and the court, but also the public at large, plus ensuring the daily safety of the workers at the plant.

"While in charge, they committed dishonest misconduct, negligence, illegal and destruction of the company's property and committed an act criminal in nature," said Jt. JMFC Khandre, on the issue in which fortunately there were no human casualties of any kind.

Referring to a complaint by a senior employee of HNGIL, Manoj C. Wadhavane, the court also detailed the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board report of the Safety & Health Officer that showed a violation of the



provisions of Maharashtra Factories Act and Maharashtra Factories Rules, etc. The court ruled that the alleged offences committed by Juneja were of a cognizable nature and hence the incident merited a detailed police investigation while ordering an FIR against the accused.

Earlier, the employees and three judges of the Supreme Court had opined

that the actions of Juneja were intended to favour a company AGI Greenpac that is in the process of acquiring the debt-hit HNGIL.

In a plea with the Kolkata National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), the employees had expressed apprehensions that owing to lack of repairs and maintenance a giant furnace in the company could collapse, the fire-fighting equipment was in a scrap condition though a sum of Rs 300 crore was lying in the HNGIL's accounts.

The workers also contended that the lack of maintenance and repairs to equipment in HNGIL

could benefit the acquirer AGI Greenpac, amid apprehensions that the latter was reportedly more interested in getting the land and probably shut down the plant later as indicated by the AGI Greenpac in its submissions on April 28, 2023.

The HNGIL, headquartered in Kolkata, is one of India's oldest and largest container glass manufacturers in India with branches in several states, while the AGI Greenpac, of Haryana, was a formidable competitor with over 20 per cent of the market share and may have benefited after the gas leakage-cum-blaze at the HNGIL plant 10 months ago.

We welcome everyone who agrees with Cong's ideology: K'taka CM on BJP rebel Yogeshwara

AGENCIES

BENGALURU, OCT 22

Ahead of the bypolls, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah stated on Tuesday that anyone who accepts the ideology of the Congress and the values of the Constitution, is welcome to join the party.

Sources confirmed that the statement is indicative that the BJP's rebel candidate C.P. Yogeshwara is poised to join the Congress party.

Yogeshwara, a senior BJP leader has resigned from his MLC post and announced his intention



to contest as an Independent candidate from Channapatna.

Responding to a question from journalists about C.P. Yogeshwara being eager to join the Congress, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said, "The Congress welcomes everyone who

agrees with the party's ideology and the values of the Constitution."

Discussions are ongoing to select the right candidate for the Channapatna seat. Former MP D.K. Suresh is also a strong candidate for it.

The decision on who will get the tickets for the Channapatna and Shigaon constituencies will be made clear in a day or two, the CM added.

CM Siddaramaiah also declared that in the Sandur bye-election, the party ticket would be given to the wife of MP, E. Tukaram.

China confirms LAC patrolling agreement as PM Modi, Xi Jinping reach Russia for BRICS Summit

AGENCIES
BEIJING, OCT 22

China on Tuesday confirmed the agreement that has been reached between New Delhi and Beijing on the patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas.

"Over the past few weeks, China and India have been in close communication through diplomatic and military channels on issues related to the China-India border. Now, the two sides have reached a resolution on the relevant matters which China speaks highly of. Going forward, China will work with India to implement these resolutions," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told reporters during a daily media briefing in Beijing on Tuesday.

On Monday, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had reflected on the long-standing issue, with a nearly identical statement. "I can share with you



that over the last several weeks, Indian and Chinese diplomatic and military negotiators have been in close contact with each other in a variety of forums. And as a result of these discussions, agreement has been arrived at 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 arisen in these areas in 2020. And we will be taking the next steps on this," Misri had told reporters in New Delhi.

The Indian Foreign Secretary had neither confirmed nor denied any possibility of both leaders holding bilateral discus-

sions in Kazan on the sidelines of the BRICS meeting. "This is a multilateral event, though of course, there is always a provision for bilateral meetings on the sidelines. We are currently looking into the overall programme of the Prime Minister. There are a number of requests for bilateral meetings and we will update you on the bilaterals as they evolve as soon as feasible," stated Misri, who was India's Ambassador to China during the violent Galwan Valley face-off between the soldiers of the two countries at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in June 2020.

As the Chinese side attempted to transgress the LAC in other areas

of the Western Sector of the India-China border areas, the two sides have been engaged in discussions through established diplomatic and military channels to address the situation.

On Monday, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar said that the latest agreement creates the basis for peace and tranquillity which should be there in the border areas and existed before 2020 - something which had been India's major concern over the past few years for the bilateral relationship to turn normal.

"At various points of time, people almost gave up. We have always maintained that on the one hand, we had to obviously do the counter deployments... But, side by side, we have been negotiating since September 2020 when I met my Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Moscow. It has been a very patient process, maybe more complicated than

what it could and should have been.

The fact is that if we are able to, as we now have, reach an understanding regarding patrolling and observing the sanctity of the LAC, then, I think, it creates the basis for peace and tranquillity which there should be in border areas and existed there before 2020," remarked Jaishankar while speaking at the NDTV World Summit.

Beijing's confirmation on the border patrolling agreement came just after Chinese President Xi Jinping left for Kazan to attend the 16th BRICS Leaders' Meeting which is also being attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Accompanying Xi Jinping on the visit are Cai Qi, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who is also the member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

Airstrikes continue to kill civilians in Lebanon, intensifying displacement: UN agency

AGENCIES
UNITED NATIONS, OCT 22

The UN humanitarian agency has said that airstrikes in Lebanon continue to kill civilians and displace a growing number of families.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said on Monday that hundreds of people were reportedly displaced Sunday night across the country following Israeli evacuation orders identifying a social finance network affiliated with Hezbollah, which were soon followed by airstrikes.

As a result of one of these airstrikes in the southern suburbs of Beirut, a UNFPA (UN Population Fund)-supported safe space for women and girls was destroyed, alongside a primary healthcare centre, Xinhua news agency reported.

In Beirut, Bekaa and Mount Lebanon, 10 facili-

ties supported by UNFPA, including primary health-care sites, safe spaces, and mobile maternity units, have closed due to insecurity.

Lebanese health authorities have reported more than 2,400 deaths and over 11,500 injuries since the hostilities began last October. Nearly 1.2 million people have been displaced or otherwise directly affected by the crisis.

OCHA said that the United Nations and its humanitarian partners continue to provide support across Lebanon, including in harder-to-reach areas.

On Monday, a six-truck aid convoy, supported by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Food Program (WFP) and OCHA, brought humanitarian supplies to Jaboule town in Baalbek Governorate.

This was the first such delivery in Lebanon since

September, the office said. The convoy brought enough food supplies to support 1,000 people for two months, along with ready-to-eat meals.

Additionally, UNICEF provided water bottles, mattresses, blankets and other items, including first aid and hygiene kits for three shelters in Jaboule town.

As of last weekend, nearly 1,100 collective shelters had opened in Lebanon, hosting some 192,000 displaced people. More than 900 of these shelters are already at full capacity, according to OCHA estimates.

The highest percentage of internally displaced people has been recorded in Beirut and Mount Lebanon Governorate.

The International Organization for Migration said that more than 800,000 people have been displaced inside Lebanon by escalating hostilities over the past year.

Top diplomats of South Korea, Britain strongly condemn North Korea's troop deployment to Russia

AGENCIES
SEOUL, OCT 22

The top diplomats of South Korea and Britain have condemned North Korea's reported troop deployment to support Russia in Ukraine and its illegal arms trade with Moscow, noting they are monitoring what Russia might offer North Korea in return.

Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul and British Foreign Secretary David Lammy made the statements in a joint text released Tuesday following their strategic dialogue held in Seoul the previous day, South Korea's foreign ministry said.

The statement on North Korea and Russia was issued separately from the joint statement on the outcome of their bilateral talks, Yonhap news agency reported.



"We condemn in the strongest terms the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's continued unlawful arms transfers and the reported deployment of its troops to the Russian Federation to support Russia's unlawful war of aggression in Ukraine," the statement read, calling North Korea by its official name.

"We are closely monitoring what Russia provides to the DPRK in return for its provision of arms and military personnel. ... We

are also deeply concerned about the possibility of any transfer of nuclear or ballistic missile-related technology to the DPRK, which would jeopardize the international non-proliferation efforts and threaten peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and across the globe," it said.

Noting that the security of the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic are closely intertwined, they said that South Korea and Brit-

ain will commit to closely monitoring the situation and pursuing measures with the international community to deter any destabilising behaviour by the two isolated states.

On bilateral relations, the two sides reaffirmed the commitment to further advancing their "strategic partnership" across all areas, from security, economy, climate change and green energy to science and technology, in line with the Downing Street Accord signed between the leaders of the two countries last year.

They also agreed to continue high-level exchanges, including pushing for a "two plus two" meeting of foreign and defence ministers in early 2025, to enhance cooperation in addressing various regional and global issues, according to the statement.

WHO announces collaboration with Saudi on Hajj health card initiative

AGENCIES
GENEVA (SWITZERLAND), OCT 22

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced on Monday a digital health collaboration with Saudi Arabia on the Hajj health card initiative.

The Hajj health card, built on the WHO Global Digital Health Certification Network's public key infrastructure, summarizes critical health information, such as medication needs, allergies, immunization status and pre-existing conditions. The card gives individuals agency over their own health information when they travel to Saudi Arabia so that they can provide authorized health providers access to accurate, up-to-date patient summary information and obtain personalized quality care.

"Today marks a notable progress in WHO's support to Member States to expand access to safer and person-centered digital health tools for people to improve their access to quality health care when and where they need it," said Dr Jeremy Farrar, WHO Chief Scientist. "We are thankful for the excellent collaboration with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, participating countries, and the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, and look forward to further support building capacity and infrastructure in countries shifting to more digitized health systems."

The Hajj is the largest pilgrimage in the world, drawing almost 3 million pilgrims from over 180 countries every year. Over 250,000 pilgrims from 3 countries, Indonesia, Malaysia and Oman, were issued Hajj health cards in 2024, as part of the pilot

collaboration between WHO and Saudi Arabia. WHO and Saudi Arabia agreed to further collaborate to improve and expand upon the successful pilot programme for the Hajj health card.

The expertise and support from the Saudi government and their digital implementing partner LEAN, will enable increased data security and essential technical support to additional countries joining the Hajj health card programme.

"This exciting partnership between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the World Health Organization to expand the Hajj health card initiative enhances the safety and well-being of millions of pilgrims," said Dr Hanan Balkhy, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO).

WHO launched the Global Digital Health Certification Network (GDHCN) in 2023 building on a successful collaboration with the European Union and other partnering countries to support COVID-19 vaccination certificates.

The GDHCN now includes over 80 WHO Member States that have established systems to verify the authenticity of health information between each other, leveraging a new global ISO standard, IPS - the International Patient Summary. The GDHCN is based on a robust public key infrastructure (PKI) encryption system that keeps health credentials verifiable and secure, allowing national authorities and health providers to trust the authenticity of health documents across borders without compromising individual privacy.

Pakistan's navy seizes large consignment of drugs worth 145 mln USD

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD, OCT 22

Pakistan's navy has successfully seized a significant quantity of drugs, including a large consignment of narcotic pills, demonstrating its commitment to curb illegal activities in the region's maritime boundaries, the military said in a statement on Monday evening.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistan army, said that the navy confiscated 2,000 kg of hashish, 370 kg of ice (crystal meth), and 50 kg of heroin during the operation.

In addition to the narcotics, a substantial cache



of illegal pills was also seized, highlighting the growing challenge of drug trafficking in the region, the military said.

The ISPR said that the total estimated value of the drugs in the international market was approximately 145 million U.S. dollars.

The drugs have been

handed over to the Anti-Narcotics Force for further investigation and legal action.

"Pakistan Navy remains ever-vigilant and committed to preventing all forms of illegal activities in the region's maritime domain, ensuring the security and stability of the region," the ISPR said.

Israel, US begin implementing 5.2 billion USD air defence aid package

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM, OCT 22

Israeli and US officials have begun implementing a \$5.2 billion emergency aid package to bolster Israel's air defence system. The Israeli and US sides completed an exchange of letters to initiate the package, which will enhance Israel's Iron Dome anti-rocket system, David's Sling missile defence system, and the Iron Beam laser defense system, the ministry said in a statement on Monday.

The package is part of an \$8.7 billion aid Israel said in late September it had secured from the United States, in which \$3.5 billion have already been transferred to Israel

for "urgent wartime procurement."

The United States has been supporting Israel since the beginning of the conflict with Hamas on October 7 last year, sending a few hundred cargo planes and ships with weapons, bombs, and ammunition, according to official Israeli sources, Xinhua news agency reported.

The US military aid has drawn widespread criticism as ongoing Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip are claiming more and more lives. According to the latest data from the Gaza-based health authorities, the Palestinian death toll from ongoing Israeli attacks in the enclave has topped 42,600.

South Korean, US Air Force commanders discuss North Korea's threats

AGENCIES
SEOUL, OCT 22

Air Force commanders from South Korea and the United States discussed North Korea's provocations in an annual meeting, the South's Air Force said on Tuesday, amid heightened tensions following the North's explosion of inter-Korean roads.

According to the Air Force, the two-day Air Boss Conference (ABC) that began on Monday brought together some 80 officials from the allies, including commanders of the South's Air Force Operations Command and Air Force Air and Missile Defence Command as well as the US 7th Air Force,



Marine Corps Forces Korea and the 5th Air Force stationed in Japan, Yonhap news agency reported.

In the meeting at Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, 60 kilometres south of Seoul, the commanders shared their assessment of the security environment amid the North's continued provocations and its

recent decision to send troops to support Russia in Moscow's war against Ukraine.

Earlier this month, the North also accused South Korea of sending drones carrying anti-North Korean leaflets to Pyongyang and blew up inter-Korean roads on its side of the heavily fortified border.

India sends first tranche of 30 tonnes of medical, food supplies to Palestine through UNRWA

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 22

India on Tuesday dispatched humanitarian assistance for the people of Palestine through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). The first tranche of assistance comprising 30 tonnes of medicine and

food items has departed.

Randhir Jaiswal, the official spokesperson for the MEA, posted on X, "India sends humanitarian assistance for the people of Palestine through UNRWA. The first tranche of assistance comprising 30 tonnes of medicine and food items has departed today. The consignment

includes a wide range of essential medicines and surgical supplies, dental products, general medical items and high-energy biscuits."

According to the post, this is the first tranche which includes a wide range of essential medicines and surgical supplies, dental products,



general medical items and high-energy biscuits.

Earlier on October 18, India dispatched the first

tranche of 11 tonnes of medical supplies to Lebanon as part of a humanitarian effort to support the nation amid rising tensions and the ongoing conflict in southern Lebanon. A total of 33 tonnes of medical supplies are being sent. Earlier on July 13, India pledged to continue supporting the embattled

UN agency helping Palestinians which is facing a financial crisis even as its needs have risen because of the Hamas-Israel conflict.

India's support for the Palestinian cause is an integral part of the nation's foreign policy. In 1974, India became the first non-Arab state to recognise Pal-

estine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In 1988, India became one of the first countries to recognise the Palestinian State. In 1996, India opened its Representative Office in Gaza, which was later shifted to Ramallah in 2003.

India's data centre capacity to double in next 30 months with Rs 55,000 cr investment

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 22

India's data centre operational capacity is projected to more than double to 2,000-2,100 MW by FY27 from 950 MW in FY24, involving an investment in the range of Rs 50,000-Rs 55,000 crore, a report said on Tuesday.

The data centre capacity in India is dominated by a few players like NTT Global Data Centers, STT Global Data Centers, CtrlS Data Centres, Sify Technologies and Nxtra Data Limited, which had a share of 85 per cent in the operational capacity (as of March 2024).

However, considering the strong demand for data centres in the country, many new developers like Yotta, Digital Connexion, Lumina CloudInfra, Capitaland, Digital Edge, etc., have entered the industry with massive investments, said the report by credit



rating ICRA.

"The low data tariff plans, access to affordable smartphones, adoption of new technologies and growing user base of social media, e-commerce, gaming and OTT platforms are some of the key triggers for data explosion," said Anupama Reddy, VP

and Co-Group Head-Corporate Ratings, ICRA.

Also, artificial intelligence (AI)-led demand, which is expected to increase multi-fold in the next 3-5 years, presents significant opportunities.

"This, coupled with favourable regulatory policies from the central

and state governments, the draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, and the infrastructure status are supporting the DC growth prospects," Reddy added.

Co-location services, backed by hyperscalers, contribute to the majority (80-85 per cent) of the DC

revenues in the country.

Around 95 per cent of the existing capacity is in six cities in India, with Mumbai and Chennai leading the race due to their inherent advantage in the form of the dense wet cable ecosystem, which offers best latencies (amount of time it takes for a data to travel from one place to another).

According to the report, given the ESG considerations for most of the key tenants, DC players are also expected to invest in green power to meet their power requirements.

Green power, as a percentage of total power consumption, is around 75 per cent for the top three global DC operators.

"However, as a percentage of total power consumption, it is currently below 5 per cent for Indian DC players, though this is projected to increase to 20-25 per cent by 2028," said the report.

India's enterprise ICT market to reach \$354 billion in 2028

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 22

The enterprise information and communication technology (ICT) market in India is set to increase at a sound compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 17.1 per cent, increasing from \$161.3 billion in 2023 to \$354.6 billion in 2028, a report showed on Tuesday.

The revenue opportunity is driven by the ongoing digital transformation initiatives taken up by businesses and government, forecasts GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.

This is in line with the positive ICT investment sentiment seen among the enterprises in the country.

Among the three IT infrastructure segments - hardware, software and services - the latter will see highest cumulative revenue increase over the forecast period.



Revenue growth in the IT services segment will primarily come from the high enterprise adoption of cloud computing services, which is set to see its revenue grow at a CAGR of 25.3 per cent over the forecast period, the report noted.

The BFSI sector to be the largest end-use vertical segment for the ICT market in India, in terms of revenue contribution, and will remain so over the forecast period. The segment is set to account for a 11.3 per cent share of the total cumulative rev-

enue forecasted for 2023-2028.

Pradeep Suresh Kulkarni from GlobalData said that continued adoption of hybrid work models, accelerated migration of workloads to cloud by SMEs and startups, and government initiatives like 'Digital India' are driving cloud computing services in the country.

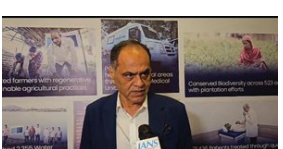
"Local data centres, set up by AWS and Google, are also encouraging enterprises in India to migrate to cloud infrastructure," Kulkarni added.

Don't mistake market volatility with growth, traditional 15-16 pc return to stay: Ramesh Damani

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 21

Investor Ramesh Damani on Monday said that despite the geo-political tensions, he remained very confident that the market will give compounded its traditional rate of return about 15-16 per cent a year.

Speaking with IANS at the sidelines of the 'NDTV World Summit 2024' Damani said that due to geopolitical events, markets may get more volatile but it doesn't affect its growth. "It is not a reason to feel pessimistic, because that is just the nature of the piece. I think it will start compounding its traditional rate of return about 15-16 per cent a year." "Bull markets typically climb all worries, unless something crazy



happens like from Iran bad for markets. Currently market discounted present geopolitical tensions," he added.

Damani said that India is outperforming all emerging and 3Ds (Democracy, Digitalisation and Demographics) are driving India's GDP growth. Apart from this, he said that India is building a very good digital public infrastructure for the public. "We're building a country together, leaving a better country for a generation," he said.

On the recent public enterprises stock (PSB) rally, Damani said: "I think you have to give full credit

to Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi for building that vision out for the country and for the value that he's created by selling the public sector stocks and by raising the value of corporate governance in those stocks."

Earlier in the event, global investor Mark Mobius shared his investing mantra, saying that he looks at return-on-equity, debt-to-equity and the management quality of the company as key levers for making investment decisions.

"I don't look at PE (Price to Earning) ratio the way I used to. This is because the E of PE is backward-looking. The most important metric is the quality of the management. That is why I travel so much, to meet these people," he said.

India's growth story remains intact, real GDP likely to grow at 7.2 pc in FY25: RBI Guv

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 22

India's growth story remains intact as its fundamental drivers - consumption and investment demand - are gaining momentum, the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has stressed, adding that the country is likely to see real GDP growth at 7.2 per cent for FY 2024-25.

Prospects of private consumption, the mainstay of aggregate demand, look bright on the back of improved agricultural outlook and rural demand.

Sustained buoyancy in services would also support urban demand. Government expenditure of the centre and the states is expected to pick up pace in line with the Budget



Estimates," Das said in the RBI's monthly bulletin.

"Investment activity would benefit from consumer and business optimism, government's continued thrust on capex and healthy balance sheets of banks and corporates," he added.

Taking all these factors into consideration, real

GDP growth for 2024-25 is projected at 7.2 per cent, with Q2 at 7.0 per cent; Q3 at 7.4 per cent; and Q4 at 7.4 per cent. Real GDP growth for Q1 2025-26 is projected at 7.3 per cent, according to the RBI document.

Meanwhile, the CPI inflation for 2024-25 is projected at 4.5 per cent, with Q2 at 4.1 per cent; Q3 at 4.8 per cent; and Q4 at 4.2 per cent. CPI inflation for Q1 2025-26 is projected at 4.3 per cent.

"The CPI print for the month of September is expected to see a big jump due to unfavourable base effects and pick up in food price momentum, caused by the lingering effects of a shortfall in the production of onion, potato and chana dal (gram) in 2023-24, among other factors," Das mentioned.

The RBI Governor further stated that domestic growth has sustained its momentum, with private consumption and investment growing in tandem.

"Resilient growth gives us the space to focus on inflation so as to ensure

its durable descent to the 4 per cent target. Keeping in view the prevailing inflation and growth conditions and the outlook, the MPC considered it appropriate to change the stance to 'neutral' and to remain unambiguously focused on a durable alignment of inflation with the target, while supporting growth," he noted.

Moving forward, the Reserve Bank will continue to be nimble and flexible in its liquidity management operations.

"We will deploy an appropriate mix of instruments to modulate both frictional and durable liquidity so as to ensure that money market interest rates evolve in an orderly manner," Das maintained.

with Q2 at 4.1 per cent; Q3 at 4.8 per cent; and Q4 at 4.2 per cent. CPI inflation for Q1 2025-26 is projected at 4.3 per cent.

EXTENSION OF 'UDAN' SCHEME TO FURTHER IMPROVE UNSERVED AIR ROUTES IN INDIA

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 22

The extension of regional air connectivity scheme called 'Udan' for 10 more years by the government will further improve unserved air routes in underserved regions of the country and fulfill the aspirations of the common citizens.

The 'UDAN' scheme, which just completed 8 years, has led to the birth and growth of regional airlines, generation of jobs and contribution to tourism.

The 'UDAN' scheme has revolutionized the air travel connecting the remote parts of India to global destinations. Under the scheme, 601 routes and 86 airports are opera-



tionalised, and 1.44 crore passengers till now have benefited from the scheme, according to Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu.

The first RCS-UDAN flight was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 27, 2017, connecting Shimla to Delhi. The scheme focuses on improving unserved air routes in underserved

regions of the country and fulfilling the aspirations of the common citizens.

The RCS-UDAN is contributing to the growth of the civil aviation industry as many new and successful airlines have come up in the last seven years.

The scheme has helped airline operators to start up and develop a sustainable business model. Additionally, it's provid-

ing opportunities to small regional airlines Flybig, Star Air, IndiaOne Air and Fly91 to scale up their businesses and their successful run is evidence of the fact that the scheme is creating an amiable ecosystem conducive to airline business.

The scheme's incremental expansion has generated an escalating demand for new aircraft, concurrently broadening the spectrum of aircraft deployed.

This augmentation encompasses a comprehensive range of aircraft and encompasses helicopters, seaplanes, 3-seat propeller planes, and jet planes.

The heightened demand for aircraft is substantiated by Indian carriers' orders, which exceed 1,000 air-

craft slated for delivery over the next 10-15 years, representing a significant augmentation of India's existing fleet, which currently comprises approximately 800 planes operated by various airlines, according to the government.

RCS-UDAN is not solely dedicated to offering last-mile connectivity to tier 2 and 3 cities but also stands as a prominent contributor to the burgeoning tourism sector.

UDAN 3.0 introduced tourism routes connecting several destinations in the northeast region, while UDAN 5.1 is dedicated to expanding helicopter services in hilly regions to stimulate tourism, hospitality, and local economic growth.

Adani acquires Orient Cement at Rs 8,100 cr equity value

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 22

Ambuja Cements, the cement and building material company of Adani Cement and part of the diversified Adani Group, on Tuesday announced the signing of a binding agreement for the acquisition of Orient Cement Ltd. (OCL) at an equity value of Rs 8,100 crore.

Ambuja will acquire 46.8% shares of OCL from its current promoters and certain public shareholders. The acquisition will be fully funded through internal accruals, Ambuja Cement said in a regulatory filing with the stock exchanges. The Adani Group is a leading and highly recognised group with a portfolio of world-

class businesses ranging from infrastructure to energy. The CK Birla Group, an Indian multinational conglomerate with over 150 years of business and philanthropic contributions, operates in diverse sectors including technology, automotive, home and building, and healthcare, where it continues to invest. CK Birla, Chairman of Orient Cement and the CK Birla Group, said, "The CK Birla Group is continuously reallocating capital to sharpen its focus on consumer-centric, technology-driven, and service-based businesses. I take pride in Orient Cement's impressive track record of building premium brands and maintaining a leading market share in the

geographies it operates in. We are confident that the Adani Group, with its strong focus on cement and infrastructure, is the ideal new owner to drive continued growth at Orient Cement for our people and stakeholders." "This timed acquisition marks another significant step forward in Ambuja Cements' accelerated growth journey, increasing cement capacity by about 30 MTPA within two years of Ambuja's acquisition," said Karan Adani, Director of Ambuja Cements. By acquiring OCL, Ambuja is poised to reach 100 MTPA cement capacity in FY 25. The acquisition will help to expand Adani Cement's presence in core markets and improve its pan-India market share by 2%.

INDSTOCKS HITS 6,21,140 ACTIVE INVESTORS AMID RISING RETAIL PARTICIPATION

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, OCT 22

The Indian stock broking platform, INDstocks by INDmoney, has hit 6,21,140 active investors, according to data from the National Stock Exchange (NSE) as of September 2024. INDstocks went live in November 2023.

Notably, nearly 50 per cent active investor growth is driven recently

in the last two quarters, reflecting the broader market momentum and the growing preference for new-age digital investment management platforms, according to a media statement here on Tuesday.

India has seen a significant rise in retail investor participation, with active Demat accounts reaching over 17 crores placing India on the 9th rank

globally in terms of active Demat accounts. Retail investors now constitute nearly 10 per cent of the Indian stock market, as highlighted in the 2023-24 Economic Survey. This upward trend reflects a broader movement, fueled by growing financial market interest and a wave of IPOs attracting both new and experienced investors to pursue equity investments as part

of their wealth-building strategies.

INDstocks, part of INDmoney's broader ecosystem has leveraged the shift toward digital-first platforms, providing a seamless, intuitive experience for stock investing. The platform's integration of features like instant withdrawals, AI-powered chart patterns, a dividend calendar, and live market updates simplifies

the investment process for users, helping both first-time and seasoned investors manage their portfolios efficiently. This user-centric approach, combined with access to diverse financial products like US stocks, mutual funds, and NPS, positions INDstocks as a comprehensive investment solution for today's digital-savvy investor.

Speaking about this

milestone, Ashish Kashyap, Founder and CEO of INDmoney, said: "Our goal has always been to simplify finance and empower every Indian to take control of their financial future with ease and transparency. Launch of INDstocks on INDmoney is in line with this objective of delivering a one stop shop investment solution across Indian stocks, US stocks, Mutual Funds and

NPS. The recent milestone of crossing 6.2 lakh active investors on NSE is a testament to the easy and intuitive experience that the team has created for investors."

While investor participation across the country has grown rapidly, there is further potential for growth.

Fintech platforms like INDstocks play an essential role in broadening

access to India's financial markets. By combining a seamless interface with a wide array of financial products, INDstocks empowers a broader demographic to participate in the stock markets. As India's stock market landscape evolves, INDstocks will continue to drive investor participation and contribute to the financial inclusion of millions of Indians.

Pant and Gill available for second Test as India face selection dilemma in Pune

AGENCIES
PUNE, OCT 22

India are expected to have a nearly full-strength squad for the second Test against New Zealand in Pune, with assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate confirming that Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill are fit and will be available for selection.

Both players are recovering from injuries that kept them out or limited their participation in the first Test, where India suffered a defeat in Bengaluru.

Pant, who injured his knee during New Zealand's first innings, left the field and did not return to wicketkeeping duties for the remainder of the match. Dhruv Jurel replaced him behind the stumps, but India hopes Pant will be



fit enough to resume his role in Pune.

"Yeah, I think everyone's really well. There wasn't too much bowling in that first Test, so the fast bowlers are all good. Rishabh's pretty good," Ryan said in the pre-match press conference on Tuesday. "I think Rohit Sharma touched on it the other day. He was having a little bit of discomfort at

the end range of his movement with the knee. But fingers crossed he'll be good to keep in this Test as well."

Shubman Gill, who missed the first Test due to neck stiffness, has also been progressing well. "He's batted last week in Bangalore, he had a few nets," the assistant coach said of Gill. "He's got a little bit of discomfort, but I'll

think he will be good to go for the Test."

Ryan also claimed that there are no concerns about KL Rahul's form at the moment but admitted that there is a big fight for places within the team. Rahul was terribly out of touch in the Bengaluru Test as he got for a duck in the first innings and 12 in the second one.

The return of Gill raises a significant selection challenge for India, especially in the batting department. Sarfaraz Khan, who replaced Gill in the Bengaluru Test, capitalised on his opportunity with a stunning 150.

His standout performance adds to the complexity of India's middle-order decisions, especially with Rahul's current form under scrutiny.

"He didn't play and miss

at any balls. That's what tends to happen when you're not getting runs. He got two balls in the game, one down the leg side and one that he managed to nick," ten Doeschate explained. "There's certainly no concerns about KL. He's batting nicely, and he's in a good mental space."

The assistant coach hinted at a fierce competition for spots in the playing XI, particularly in the middle order.

"Sarfaraz was brilliant in the last Test... We certainly have to fit seven pieces into six spots for this Test. We will look at the pitch now and decide what's going to be best for the team," he said.

The second Test between India and New Zealand begins on October 24.

Cook believes Root can get 'very close' to Tendulkar's record Test runs

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 22

Former England captain Alastair Cook believes in-form compatriot Joe Root can get 'very close' to Sachin Tendulkar's record 15,921 Test runs in the coming years.

Recently, Root surpassed Cook to become the leading run-getter and century-maker for England in the first Test between England and Pakistan in Multan earlier this month. With 12,716 runs, Root is the fifth-highest run-scorer in Test cricket.

"I watched the moment, then I rang him after the end of the play. I couldn't think of the right words to write in a text message. So I thought I'd just ring him, see what he was up to, and make sure he had a beer in his hand, which I think he did," Cook, who



was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame, said during a round-table interview hosted by the ICC.

"I think Joe Root could set a mark, certainly on an English side, that'll be very hard to beat. But you just never know. I hope he can get very close, if not be the first person who scores 16,000 Test runs. It'd be a great achievement," he added.

In the last four years, Root has been on the rise

in Test cricket with more than half of his 35 centuries coming in that period with an average close to 60.

Former England captain said that Root is currently the best batter in the world, perhaps only matched by New Zealand's Kane Williamson, and showing better form than both Steve Smith and Virat Kohli - the other members of the group known by many as the 'big four'.

NRAI, Gagan Narang left 'disappointed' after shooting dropped from CWG 2026

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 22

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) and Olympic medallist shooter Gagan Narang have expressed their 'disappointment' on the shooting's exclusion from the 2026 Commonwealth Games (CWG) in Glasgow.

Shooting made its debut in the 1996 CWG and has been on the list since then except for 1970 and the last edition in Birmingham. Shooting has been one of India's medal-taking sports in the Games. India have won 135 medals in shooting in the Games so far. The tally includes 63 gold, 44 silver and 28 bronze.

"It is disappointing that shooting hasn't been included in the CWG. This will be a very different Commonwealth Games with many popular Olympic sports not included in what will be a watered-down version of the Games.

We can only wish those who will participate all the best. The Govt of India, Ministry of Sports & IOA did everything possible



to include sports which India are traditionally strong in. NRAI offered to host the shooting part of the games in India subject to relevant approvals. In the end, we should rally around and appreciate Scotland's effort in hosting the Games," the NRAI said in a statement.

The 2012 London Olympics bronze medallist shooter Gagan Narang said the decision would leave shooters disappointed, who were preparing for the quadrennial event.

"I am certainly disappointed shooting is not part of CWG 2026 in Glasgow. Our sport has

been out of CWG since 2018 and when Victoria was to host it, shooting was included and now it's been removed. I can imagine the disappointment for shooters who were preparing for this event. I am also disappointed that few more disciplines which are medal prospects for India don't figure in the list of disciplines for CWG 2026," he wrote on X.

"While I am happy for the ten sports included. The respective international and national federations whose sports missed the cut of list have also been working tirelessly to administer the sport in

their respective countries and the athletes have been giving their absolute best to prepare for these prestigious games.

"CWG has always been a marquee event in Indian sporting calendar and it is disheartening to see the Games being watered down with fewer disciplines in the coming up in Glasgow 2026," he added.

Besides shooting, other major sports dropped from the programme are hockey, badminton, cricket, badminton, wrestling, table tennis and squash.

The 23rd edition of the Commonwealth Games will take place in Scotland from July 23 to August 2, 2026 returning to the city 12 years after the hugely successful 2014 Commonwealth Games.

The sports programme will include Athletics and Para Athletics (Track & Field), Swimming and Para Swimming, Artistic Gymnastics, Track Cycling and Para Track Cycling, Netball, Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting, Boxing, Judo, Bowls and Para Bowls, and 3x3 Basketball and 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball.

England opt for spin trio on 'raked' Rawalpindi pitch as Rehan Ahmed returns

AGENCIES
RAWALPINDI, OCT 22

England have opted to field a spin-heavy attack for the third Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi, recalling 19-year-old Rehan Ahmed alongside Jack Leach and Shoaib Bashir. The decision comes as local ground staff in Pakistan appear to have deliberately 'raked' the pitch to favour spin, according to England batter Harry Brook.

The pitch preparation in Rawalpindi, which reportedly involved the use of rakes, industrial fans and heaters to dry out the surface, suggests a strategy from Pakistan to bring their own spinners into play, especially following their victory on a reused strip in Multan.

Brook, speaking ahead of the match, expressed uncertainty about the surface but hoped for familiar conditions: "They've had the rakes out, the fans and the heaters on the pitch. Everyone goes and looks at the wicket and says something different... Hopefully, it's just like any other Pakistani pitch. It's good to bat on for the first few days and then hopefully, we can get a bit of turn out of it at the back end of the game." "I think the conditions are going to be a little bit different. We played on an extremely flat pitch here last time. It was awesome to bat on, and we scored a good rate of knots. This game's probably going to be slightly different. It might turn



earlier on: who knows? It might be a good pitch to start with and we get off to a flyer," he added.

Rehan Ahmed, who burst onto the international scene in Pakistan two years ago with a five-wicket haul in Karachi, is set to make his first appearance for England since February. His performance in that series secured a historic 3-0 sweep for England, but his progress has since been inconsistent.

Despite these setbacks, England remain committed to developing Rehan's potential. He has continued to work on his game, particularly his batting, recording four half-centuries in the County Championship this summer. Rehan will bolster England's lower order, batting at No. 9, as the team looks to take advantage

of the spin-friendly conditions in Rawalpindi.

The inclusion of Rehan means Gus Atkinson also returns to the side, replacing Brydon Carse and Matthew Potts, who have both been rested. Carse, England's standout bowler on this tour with nine wickets at 24.33, has been rested after a heavy workload, having bowled 67 overs in the first two Tests. Atkinson, who claimed four wickets in England's innings win in the first Test, will provide pace to complement the spin attack.

England playing XI for third Test: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (c), Jamie Smith (wk), Gus Atkinson, Rehan Ahmed, Jack Leach, Shoaib Bashir.

SAFF WOMEN'S C'SHIP: INDIA LOOK TO BURY 'GHOSTS OF PAST' AGAINST BANGLADESH

AGENCIES
KATHMANDU, OCT 22

A two-way battle is on the cards for the Indian Senior Women's team as they face Bangladesh on Wednesday at the Dasharath Stadium in their final Group A match of the SAFF Women's Championship 2024.

India women have already booked their spot in the semifinals with a 5-2 win against Pakistan but there's still plenty at stake. With group supremacy on the line, India will be aiming to reclaim their dominance over Bangladesh.

At the same time, the memory of 2022 still lingers. In that year's edition of the championship, ultimate champions Bangladesh shattered India's unbeaten streak in the tournament with a 3-0 victory in the group stage, marking the first time India had fallen to their South Asian rivals in SAFF.

With all the things in mind, head coach Santosh Kashyap had announced



Bala Devi, who scored the 50th international goal against Pakistan, as the captain for the match against Bangladesh.

"We have faced Bangladesh before, and we watched their last game against Pakistan. Our sole focus now is to win this match. We have both senior and young players and we are prepared to push for a win. We have had productive training sessions, and I hope we can put what we have practiced into action," Bala was quoted by AIFF website.

"As the captain, I aim to lead by example and

support the team in every way. Bangladesh has some fast and youthful players, but I believe our mental strength gives us an edge, which will be crucial in tomorrow's game," said the seasoned campaigner. Kashyap has led the team through five days of training in Kathmandu, preparing for the challenges that lie ahead against Bangladesh.

"We had a positive start in the championship. After a strong beginning, I feel confident because Pakistan have also proven to be a tough team. They were leading 1-0 against a strong Bangladesh side for

nearly 90 minutes before the game ended in a draw.

"Bangladesh dominated most of the game, but Pakistan defended well, frustrating them and holding their lead until the last moments. This gives us a chance to focus on refining our game. It's not about addressing weaknesses, as I believe we are playing good football, but there is always room for improvement in areas like attacking, defending, and transitions. We are well prepared for that," Kashyap said.

"Tomorrow's match will be challenging, as Bangladesh are a strong side with a foreign coach and have solid tactical plans. Although we have already booked a spot in the semifinals, we are taking it one game at a time, aiming to win every match. I prefer playing attacking football because it's not only effective but also entertaining for everyone. It's a style that I, as well as the players, enjoy, and we will try to maintain that momentum," he added.

For Bangladesh, the absence of coach Golam Rabbani Choton, along with key players like defender Akhi Khatun and Anai Mogini, will be felt. However, the team have brought in fresh talents, including young players such as Afeida Khandakar, Matsushima Sumaya, and Airin Khatun.

Bangladesh head coach Peter Butler, said, "We are coming up against an Indian team, who, in my opinion, are probably the best team in the tournament.

They are very disciplined and organised in their manner and their demeanour of actually how they walk around the hotel. I'm looking forward to the game. I think it'll be quite an attacking game. The most important thing is to try and share out the workload with all our players."

"It's a do or die game. It's a game we don't want to lose. India's already booked their semi-final berth and I'm quietly optimistic," he added.

Hockey, cricket, wrestling, badminton, squash axed from 2026 CWG in Glasgow

AGENCIES
LONDON, OCT 22

In a major blow to India's medal hopes in the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the organisers have dropped hockey, cricket, wrestling, badminton, squash, and table tennis, among others, from the sports programme for the coming edition.

In most of the sports which have been dropped from the Games, India finished on podium in the last edition in Birmingham in 2022.

India won 61 medals, including 22 gold in the last edition of the Games. 12 in wrestling, seven each in boxing and table tennis, six in badminton, two each in hockey and squash and one in cricket - more than half of the total medals.

The Commonwealth Games Federation confirmed that the 23rd edition of the Commonwealth

Games will take place in Scotland from July 23 to August 2, 2026, returning to the city 12 years after the hugely successful 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Glasgow 2026 will feature a 10-sport programme concentrated across four venues within an eight-mile corridor, ensuring an action-packed broadcast schedule across each day of competition and making the event accessible and appealing to spectators looking to enjoy the multi-sport environment and festival feel.

The sports programme will include Athletics and Para Athletics (Track & Field), Swimming and Para Swimming, Artistic Gymnastics, Track Cycling and Para Track Cycling, Netball, Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting, Boxing, Judo, Bowls and Para Bowls, and 3x3 Basketball and 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball.

Commonwealth Games Federation CEO Katie

Sadler said, "On behalf of the entire Commonwealth Sport Movement, we are delighted to officially confirm that the 2026 Commonwealth Games will take place in the host city of Glasgow. The Games promise to be a truly immersive festival of sport and celebration of culture and diversity that inspires athletes and sports."

The Games will take place across four venues: Scotstoun Stadium, Tollcross International Swimming Centre, Emirates Arena - including the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, and the Scottish Event Campus (SEC). Athletes and support staff will be housed in hotel accommodation.

With over 500,000 tickets to be made available at a future date, there will be around 3,000 of the best athletes competing from up to 74 Commonwealth nations and territories that represent 2.5 billion people - one-third of the world's population.

SWD launches Awareness Campaign on Scholarship Schemes across Ramban



JNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, OCTOBER 22

The Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with the Department of School Education, has initiated a district-wide awareness campaign on Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes here under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary. Aimed at informing eligible students about available scholarships, the campaign began at Government High School, led by District Social Welfare Officer, Rahul Gupta.

The campaign seeks to ensure that students from all backgrounds are aware of financial assistance opportunities, promoting education and supporting the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative as well. Speaking at the event, officials from the twin departments asked the students and their families to take full advantage of these schemes to ease their educational journey. The campaign will continue to reach more schools and educational institutions across the district, ensuring that no eligible student is left behind in accessing these crucial benefits.

Omar Abdullah led govt committed to balanced development of all regions of J&K: Javed Rana



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 22

Several delegations from various districts of Kashmir province today met the Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest & Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana today at the Civil Secretariat here. The visiting deputations raised critical developmental concerns pertaining to their respective areas, seeking the Minister's intervention in redressal of the same. During the interaction, the delegations expressed their gratitude to the Minister for his leadership in spearheading and organising the electorate of far

flung Pir Panjal region. A delegation led by General Secretary of SFC, Retired Employees Forum J&K, submitted a memorandum to the Minister urging his intervention for granting pensionary benefits to employees of J&K State Forest Corporation (SFC). The Contractors delegations also submitted representation seeking release of pending funds, clearance of the revised cost estimates (LIS) Scheme, establishment of a revolving fund and other issues. They brought to his attention pressing issues like release of UT share for Tral lift irrigation Scheme and particularly those related to infrastructure development and social services, requesting the government's immediate attention to these matters. Responding to the issues of the delegations, Javed Rana assured the deputations that their concerns would be addressed on priority. He reiterated the commitment of Omar Abdullah led government towards ensuring balanced development of all regions and sub-regions of Jammu and Kashmir emphasizing the government's priority to address the needs of every community with special focus on the down-trodden.

J&K Haj Committee extends last date for depositing of Advance Amount for Haj-2025

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 22

The Jammu and Kashmir Haj Committee today notified for the information of all the Intending Haj Pilgrims of Haj 2025 that the last date for depositing the Advance Haj Amount of Rs.1,30,300/- (One Lakh Thirty Thousand and Three Hundred only) has been extended up to 31st October 2024 by Haj Committee of India Mumbai vide Circular No.10 dated:21/10/2024.

After depositing the advance Haj Amount, the Provisionally Selected Pilgrims shall submit Haj Application Form (HAF) Solemn Declaration & Undertaking, Copy of Pay-in-slip/Online receipt, Medical Screening and Fitness Certificate (as per format available on the website i.e., www.hajcommittee.gov.in), Self-attested copy of international passport and One Passport Size Photograph (white background vin (Haj Section) of the concerned Deputy Commissioners Office up to 05 November, 2024.

However, the Provisionally Selected Pilgrims of district Srinagar shall deposit the aforesaid documents directly in Haj House Bemina, Srinagar by or before 05 November, 2024.

Further, all the selected pilgrims are advised to download the Medical Screening and Fitness Certificate from Haj Committee of India website www.hajcommittee.gov.in and get the same issued from Govt, Medical Officer after medical examination.

DC Kishtwar reviews performance of banks at DLRC meeting

JNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 22

District Development Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan, chaired the DLRC meeting to review the progress of the Banks and line departments during the quarter ending June 2024.

The meeting primarily focused on assessing the implementation of financial inclusion programs and other developmental initiatives in the district.

The DC sought improvement in the CD ratio, hassle-free loan provisions, inter-departmental cooperation, and stronger coordination among various stakeholders to ensure that the district's financial and developmental goals are met effectively.

The meeting reviewed the achievements and targets of banking sectors, credit flow under government schemes, and the progress of financial literacy programs across



the district. Key areas discussed included the implementation of schemes such as the progress of self-help groups under NRLM, performance of RSETI and various others.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed banks to enhance loan disbursement to priority sectors, including agriculture, small businesses and women entrepreneurs. He fixed the target for each Bank in various schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas

Yojana (PMAY), MUDRA Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Stand Up India, Aadhaar seeding etc.

The Officer further asked the Banks to organise awareness Camps for financial literacy in coordination with line departments.

The DC advised officials to take proactive measures in addressing any bottlenecks in the execution of projects, ensuring the timely and effective imple-

mentation of development schemes in Kishtwar.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to accelerating progress in the district and fostering a more inclusive approach to financial empowerment and development. The meeting was attended by CPO Shahnawaz Bali, LDM Kishtwar, LDO RBI, DDM NABARD, ALC Kishtwar, CAO Kishtwar, CHO Kishtwar, and officers from line departments and banks.

Mission Director HADP assesses Agriculture Projects, other initiatives in Jammu District

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 22

Mission Director Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Rahul Yadav conducted a thorough assessment of various agricultural projects and initiatives across Jammu District.

During a tour of the district, the Mission Director inspected the Hi-Tech polyhouse established under the protected cultivation by Bhanu Partap Singh from Hakkal village, Zone Mandal. He also reviewed a Controlled Conditioned Cropping unit for mushroom production under HADP, which was provided to Bal Krishan from Gurha Singhu in the Marh Sub-Division. He was accompanied by Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Satish Sharma and officials from allied sectors. Rahul Yadav also



inspected the Kissan Khidmat Ghar in Gajansoo, where he interacted with local Krishi Udhamis to gather insights on their experiences with the initiatives. The Mission Director also inspected farm machinery distributed under the Farm Mechanization and Automation Project (HADP), noting the recent issuance of the tractors to the local farmers.

In addition, Rahul Yadav visited the Uzma Milk Product Farmer Pro-

ducer Organization (FPO) in Lalyal, Zone Marh, where he met with farmers to discuss the impact of the HADP initiatives.

Reflecting on the tour, Rahul Yadav expressed satisfaction with the positive feedback from farmers, stating, "The Holistic Agriculture Development Programme is making a significant difference in the lives of our farmers. It is helping to improve their income and livelihood through targeted support and innovative initiatives."

DC Samba chairs District Rent Assessment Committee meeting

JNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, OCTOBER 22

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, chaired the District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) meeting here today in the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, Nandani Hills.

A total of 12 rent cases were reviewed during the meeting, involving buildings rented by School Education, Handicrafts, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Health and Police departments. The committee conducted detailed evaluations, ensuring that the rent rates proposed were in line with current market values and that the requirements of each department were properly considered.

Javed Dar calls for prompt action on public concerns



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 22

Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javed Ahmad Dar, today emphasized the need for prompt redressal of genuine public grievances during a meeting with various public delegations at his office today.

Javed Dar, who is also the Minister for Cooperative and Elections, reiterated that the government is committed towards addressing the genuine issues of the general public, ensuring that their voices are heard and their issues are resolved amicably. While listening to the public issues and concerns, the Minister assured that all the genuine demands shall be taken up with the relevant quarters for

timely redressal. Javed Dar asked the officials to prioritize transparency, accountability and timely action in resolving public grievances. The Minister engaged with representatives from diverse sectors and public deputations from different districts, listening attentively to their concerns and providing guidance on resolving issues related to agriculture, rural development and public services.

Various issues were taken up with the concerned for on the spot redressal. He stressed the importance of swift action in addressing genuine public grievances.

The Minister assured prompt service delivery to the general public and exhorted upon the officials to prioritize transparency and accountability in resolving public concerns.

KNOW DENGUE FOR NO DENGUE Dengue can be Prevented

DENGUE

- Dengue is a viral disease.
- It is transmitted by the bite of Aedes mosquito.
- Dengue Fever is a severe, flu-like illness.
- Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) & Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS) are more severe forms of disease, which may even cause death if left untreated.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- High fever.
- Frontal headache.
- Pain behind the eyes which worsens with eye movement.
- Muscle and joint pains.
- Rashes on the body.
- Pain abdomen.
- Nausea and vomiting.
- Bleeding & low B.P in severe cases.

PREVENTION

- Avoid water stagnation in & around the house.
- Empty water reservoirs regularly like storage utensils, air coolers, plant pots, drums, flower pots and bird baths etc.
- Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.
- Use mosquito repellents/ Anti mosquito creams.
- Do not wear clothes that expose arms and legs.
- Use mosquito nets while sleeping.
- Use netted screens for doors & windows to prevent entry of mosquitoes



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STATE MALARIOLOGIST/SPO NVBDCP, J&K,
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU

DIP/J-6012/24 | Date: 22-10-24